

Using Gas Mixed With Ethenol – The Real Story

By Pat Roy

Question

Are there any horrors to be on the look out for or any particular measures to take when using ethanol in our engines?

California has been using ethanol blended gas for many years now. Along with stuff I don't think anyone knows about.

Walbro carbs have come equipped with components good to a noted level of 20% ethanol for several years, so unless your carb is more than 4 years old you won't have any problems there. Even so, you should replace all the gaskets and diaphragms in a carb at periods not exceeding every two years. That stuff wears and there is no information or data available to determine their life cycle. Just to let you know, I've been trying to determine that life cycle for the last three years with no success. Nobody knows...

Like any other fuel, keep the container sealed and store the container out of direct sunlight. By itself, that goes a long way to eliminating a lot of fuel issues. Ethanol does absorb moisture but in a closed gas can the amount is generally not enough to have a negative impact on performance. Spending a little time in tuning the carb still makes for the best performance with any fuel.

In essence, you should not have any issues different from what you had before. You might have to re-tune the carb slightly with a change to blended gas. Aside from that, everything else is the same as it's always been. Good storage practices and a little preventative maintenance.