

Diesel Bug Treatment

Market & Price Comparison

There are two approaches to the prevention of diesel bug growth in fuel.

1. Eradicate the water that most (not all) of the bugs require.
2. Kill them with a biocide.

The Water Approach

These are mainly enzyme based products that use glycol or other alcohols as carriers. The alcohols take on the water or some of it and take it through the engine. This bit of water can clean the engine. The drawbacks are that when the engine stops (and our boats are often stopped for long periods) the water in the fuel can cause corrosion in the fuel system. The second problem is that the fuel/water mix plus the alcohol passes in small amounts to the crank-case causing break down of oil additives and formation of emulsions.

Enzymes are likely to break down in cold weather and in hot recirculated fuel. The latest problem to be seen is with bio-diesel. The high water content of stored bio-diesel, plus the water taken on by the enzyme treatment, has been causing emulsification at the fuel injectors and blocking them.

Biocides

Two types are currently available which are supported under the Biocidal Products Regulations. One uses glycol as a carrier and the other (ours) is almost neat. Both types pass into water and fuel phases. The advantages are very low addition rates and complete effectiveness (bugs do not become immune to chemical attack; this is a myth created by competitors and the problems surrounding antibiotics).

The disadvantages are that they are harmful (to humans) chemicals and care must be taken when using them. It could be said that more pollutants are created but at an addition rate of only 50 parts per million of fuel this is negligible and is offset by the cleaner burning of the fuel, so overall less fuel burnt and less emissions.

Marine 16 Ltd can produce any of the above types of product. We produce Diesel Bug Treatment because we think it gives the best performance and value for money, but above all we like to think that your engine will not fail you when you need it most.

Diesel Bug Treatment Price Comparison

Based on internet prices and manufacturers addition rates:. Where possible the nearest price for 1Ltr of product has been used and VAT is included.

Product	Type	Cost Ltr Fuel Treated
Racor	Biocide	0.8p
Cyrus Eradicate	Enzyme	0.3p
Soltron	Enzyme	1.57p
Startron	Enzyme	0.72p
Grotomar 82	Biocide	0.75p
Marine 16 DBT	Biocide	0.35p

We also produce Diesel Fuel Complete. For eradication of diesel bug our Diesel Bug Treatment should be used at the appropriate treatment rate. This can also be used to prevent bug growth. It is compatible with all distillate based fuels from heavy fuel oils through to diesel and kerosene. If used with other biocides or fuel treatments, its efficacy will not be compromised and there are no unwanted chemical reactions.

For full protection of fuel, including bug prevention, Diesel Fuel Complete should be used. This is ideal for intermittent boat use and boat storage. It lifts the cetane value, drops water out from the body of the fuel, demulsifies fuel, cleans injectors and helps prevent corrosion. It is designed to combat as much as possible the drawbacks of using biodiesel.

The published fuel saving on average, when using Diesel Fuel Complete is around 3.6% so it should pay for itself!

Works great in cars too.

David White