

HOW TO —

# Strip ethanol from your pump fuel

If left over winter, pump fuel rusts tanks and rots carb jets. Follow these steps and leave your bike with a tank of straight gasoline

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The look of a man whose fuel tank is going to be OK after winter

**I**NTRODUCED TO EU pump fuel in the mid-to-late Noughties, ethanol is an attempt to reduce carbon emissions by replacing fossil fuel with fuel derived from plants. Most of our ethanol probably comes from Brazilian sugar cane, and it can make up between two and five per cent of the pump fuel you buy.

Engines don't mind it at all, but fuel tanks and carburettors do. Ethanol is a 'wet' fuel, meaning that it absorbs water from the atmosphere. That doesn't matter when you're burning a tankful a week, but the problems start when you park up a bike in October and start it up again in March. That gives the fuel five months to pick up water, form a heavy layer, and start rusting the bottom of the tank. You'd think there'd be no oxygen to allow rust to form but ethanol supplies that too. Brass jets and some plastics are equally vulnerable.

The solution is to use fuel stabiliser, or dry out the tank and carbs. But now there's a third possibility: strip the ethanol from the last couple of tankfuls before you lay the bike up. That way your bike will just have pure gasoline sitting around in the tank over Christmas.

You can do this with a kit from ethanil.co.uk. It costs £50, or £75 if you want a funnel for extra filtration of the last few water globules. You can use the containers indefinitely, but don't leave fuel or ethanol in them: the transparent plastic isn't suitable for long-term storage. As a result, a jerry can is a handy extra.

## Tools for the job

Chair, jerry can (or plastic cans to carry 18L), Ethanil kit



## WORKSHOP RATING

### TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY?



### HOW LONG?

You'll have this done and dusted in an hour – there's nothing complex or time-consuming going on



### COST?

Either £50 or £75 depending on which Ethanil kit you get, plus another £15 or so if you need a new jerry can.