

Car Care Corner

Fuel Additives Help Keep Engines Healthy

(NAPSA)—In a down economy, we've all been trying to be a little more cost conscious, but your vehicle's upkeep is no place to pinch pennies. Most drivers know about basic car care. Change your oil and filter. Check tire pressure. Maintain proper antifreeze levels and change your antifreeze on time to protect your cooling system. Have you thought about using a fuel additive to help improve overall engine performance, leading to reduced emissions, unburned wasted fuel and a smoother idle?

Fuel additives can improve fuel quality (the octane level) and/or help keep injectors and combustion chambers clean. Without the use of fuel additives, unsightly deposits may start to build up in the engine. Using fuel additives can help improve and maintain the efficiency and performance of your car's heart—the engine.

If your car's injectors are clogged, the buildup of these deposits can deprive an engine of its power, fuel efficiency and overall drivability. Drivers might notice these deposits forming when their vehicle starts to experience hesitation, rough idling and increased starting difficulty. Adding a specially formulated fuel additive can help resolve these problems and won't end up costing drivers that much.

"Using a fuel additive is simple enough that you don't have to be a car junkie to do it yourself," said Jay Buckley, Prestone training manager and ASE-certified master mechanic. "Plus, adding a fuel additive on a regular basis for preventative maintenance is worth the investment."

Here are Buckley's tips on choosing and using the right fuel additives:

1. When using an additive on a regular basis during fill-ups, choose a low-concentration product, such as Prestone® Gas Treatment.



Regular use of a fuel additive can help a vehicle run smoothly and efficiently.

2. If you are interested in a one-time treatment every few months, consider a highly concentrated product such as Prestone® Complete Fuel System Cleaner.

3. Some fuel additives are designed to increase engine performance. Typically, these products include the word "octane" in the name, as they're formulated to raise the octane level of gasoline.

4. Always pour the entire bottle into your gas tank and be sure you have a full tank of gas.

"Our lab engineers actually created a new line of 6-oz. fuel additives. They deliver premium performance in a smaller, more environmentally responsible and convenient package," said Buckley.

While regular use of a fuel additive can help a vehicle run smoothly and efficiently, it should not serve as a substitute for regular vehicle maintenance. The regular use of fuel additives will help keep your combustion chambers and fuel injectors clean, allowing your engine to run at its best. Follow the guidelines in your vehicle's owner's manual for the proper maintenance schedule. For more car care tips, visit www.prestone.com.