

E=ETHANOL!

With E10 making an appearance at UK pumps.

Ethanol content in UK petrol is commonplace, usually at a ratio of 5 percent in 95RON. I have seen E10 on a 97 RON fuel pump, though supply does seem to be sketchy. If E10 is present it must be clearly indicated as such with a warning that it might not be suitable for all cars. I certainly don't recall a clear warning on the pump I encountered. Burlen fuels Ltd in Salisbury - a business at the forefront of classic vehicle carburetion systems for SU, Zenith Stromberg and AMAL components supplying effective solutions for ethanol for a few years now. As a result, Burlen now provide a number of upgraded materials as standard including needles made from nickel silver, orifices made from manganese bronze and diaphragms and O-rings made from Viton or other unaffected materials. Their fuel lines are also ethanol-resistant.

The FBHVC closely monitors the ethanol issue at national and international level, so they recommend you keep apace with their research released via newsletters and their website. This brief guide should provide tips to identify potential ethanol issues and how they are solved.

<u>Suitable</u>	<u>Non-suitable</u>
<p>Carbon steel (dry fuel), Stainless steel & Bronze</p> <p>1018 Steel Nickel Plated/1018 Steel Zinc</p> <p>Tri-chromate plated (Hexavalent) /1018</p> <p>Steel Zinc Di-Chromate Plated</p> <p>Polyoxymethene (69)</p> <p>Polyethylene, Teflon & Fibreglass-reinforced plastic</p> <p>Fluorel, Fluorosilicomne & Polysulphide rubber</p> <p>Viton (not Agrade), Acrylic Rubber (ACM)</p> <p>Epichlorohydrin Homopolymer (CO)</p> <p>Polychloroprene (CR) Neoprene</p>	<p>Zinc & Galvanised materials</p> <p>Aluminium (some grades), Magnesium alloys</p> <p>Zamak 5, Polyurethane, Polymers containing alcohol groups</p> <p>Shellac, Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS)</p> <p>Polyvinyl Chloride flexible version (PVC)</p> <p>Natural rubber, Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)</p>
	Guide use only - always check first



1. Brass Versus Viton

Brass float chamber needles are notorious for both sticking and wear causing flooding, leaks and running issues. Ethanol accelerates brass's decline so if rebuilding, opt for Viton-tipped needles whenever available. Viton is a type of rubber.



2. Stay-Up float

Still with float chambers is the old plastic float that suffers from ethanol content and, once punctured, will flood a carb.

Viton-based Stay-Up floats are ethanol resistant, puncture-proof and more easily adjusted thanks to their hinge design

More Next Month