



STALE FUEL

If you have equipment that has sat with fuel in the tank for months at a time you've likely had difficulty starting the engine. If upon further inspection you remove the gas cap and find the odor almost knocks you off your feet this is an indication the gasoline in the tank has become stale. In many cases it has turned into a varnish that clogs fuel ports in the carburetor and causes the engine to run erratically or not at all.

What's the best thing to do to prevent this from happening? Do you run the tank dry before putting it away? No! Not a good idea, as even the small amount of fuel left in the system can turn to varnish as it dries up.

Here's what is recommended:

1. Treat the last tank of fuel with a gasoline stabilizer.
2. Always put the engine in storage with at least a half tank of fresh treated fuel in it.
3. Run the engine for 10 minutes after treating the fuel, so that the stabilizer gets into the entire fuel system.
4. Start the unit up every month or two to keep fresh fuel in the carburetor during the season. Fuel does evaporate from the carburetor.

The important thing to understand is that gasoline does not do well when stored in small quantities or open sunlight. If you don't use much fuel during the season, then try to keep what you have fresh and in a cool shaded area. Most small engine shops, hardware stores and auto parts stores sell gasoline stabilizer. Fuel stabilizer will keep fuel fresh for about two years. If you already have the stale fuel problem, then start by cleaning as much of the old fuel out as possible, then with fresh fuel in the tank, try starting it. If it won't start or runs erratic, it's a trip to the repair shop. So, let's keep that fuel fresh!

