



Contaminated Diesel Exhaust Fluid

Tech Tip #17-1028



Fresh Diesel Exhaust Fluid Is a **MUST!**

Recently we have seen where DEF can become contaminated. Doing work on the system and draining the tank for repair can cause further issues and check engine lights.

When work has been required where the DEF tank needed to be emptied, often the thought is to empty it into a 5-gallon container...What was in that container? Coolant, diesel fuel, oil, dirt? We don't think of that and in many instances the pail has been used several times for many things. We have said that the fill cap on the DEF tanks should be "soaked" in distilled water when the tank is filled and the nozzle should be set in distilled water when not in use. This is to prevent crystallization and also to keep contaminants out.

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When you have the tank off for repair and have drained it, we recommend disposing of the fluid in the tank and then rinsing with distilled water. If distilled water is unavailable we recommend using tap water. Then putting a gallon of fresh DEF in the tank and thoroughly “swishing” it around inside the tank and disposing of it. Followed by filling with fresh fluid. Taking this somewhat minor step could definitely eliminate further downtime.

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