



Ethanol & E15: Frequently Asked Questions

This briefing serves as a guide for general questions about ethanol. To learn more, visit EthanolRetailer.com or GrowthEnergy.org.

WHAT IS A FLEX FUEL VEHICLE?

- A Flex Fuel vehicle (FFV) operates on any blend from E10 up to E85.
- There are more than 21 million FFVs on the road.
- See a full list of FFVs available at EthanolRetailer.com/ffv.
- Search for stations offering ethanol-blended fuel at GetEthanol.com.

HOW CAN I TELL IF I AM DRIVING A FLEX FUEL VEHICLE?

- Consult your owner's manual.
- Look on the gas cap to see if it is yellow or says E85 compatible.
- Check the back of the vehicle to see if the rear says FLEXFUEL.
- Enter your vehicle make, model and year at:
http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/vehicles/search/light?fuel_type_code=E85_GSL

CAN I FILL UP WITH ETHANOL?

- E10 is warranted for use in any vehicle built after 1980.
- Blends above E15 must be used in an FFV.
- EPA has approved the use of E15 in car models from 2001 onwards.

CAN I FILL UP WITH E15?

- E15 is approved for cars manufactured as model year 2001 and later, which is about 200 million vehicles – or more than 87 percent – on the road today.
- E15 is found in 29 states and more than 830 retail locations.
- E15 is 88 octane.
- E15 is available at a price advantage.
- Higher performance, Higher octane.
- Consumers have driven more than 1 billion miles on E15 with no problems.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT ETHANOL?

- Visit GetEthanol.com to find stations that offer the fuel and to learn more about ethanol, how it can boost your engine's performance, reduce transportation fuel costs and keep noxious emissions out of the environment.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ETHANOL?

- **SAVE MONEY AT THE PUMP.** FFV drivers reported maintaining similar mileage to regular gas when filling up with up to 30 percent ethanol.
- **BOLSTER AMERICA'S ECONOMY.** Ethanol supports local economies by keeping jobs in the U.S.
- **DECREASE TAILPIPE EMISSIONS.** Grain-based ethanol can reduce emissions by 59 percent.
- **STRENGTHEN U.S. ECONOMY.** Diversifying the American energy basket reduces U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

DOES ETHANOL AFFECT FOOD PRICES?

- Ethanol has a marginal impact on food prices.
- In 2001, ethanol used less than three percent of the global grain supply.
- Approximately three percent of food production costs are related to grain prices.
- In contrast, 80 percent of food prices are directly determined by: transportation, processing, packaging and marketing.

DOES ETHANOL PRODUCTION REQUIRE A LOT OF WATER?

- Most of the water used is subsequently released back into the atmosphere in the form of steam, thus creating a self-sustaining cycle.
- Water required to produce ethanol has dropped almost 100 percent in the past ten years.
- Today, production only requires 2.7 gallons of water/gallon.

IS ETHANOL PRODUCTION EFFICIENT?

- Over the past ten years, ethanol production facilities have substantially improved efficiency and efficacy.
- Energy output from ethanol facilities continues to increase.
- A recent USDA study shows that for every 1 BTU required for energy production, 2.3 BTUs of energy are produced.



For more information, please contact Sara Brenden at sbrenden@growthenergy.org.