

DEF in the Fuel Tank



Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) tanks were designed with a smaller diameter fill port than the diesel tank to prevent adding diesel to the DEF tank. The industry also adopted a standard light blue colored cap for DEF and a green colored cap for diesel to prevent improper mixing of the fluids. Unfortunately, it happens on occasion that the operator will add DEF to the fuel tank. Mixing of fluids is more common with diesel pickup trucks requiring DEF than heavy-duty trucks because tank fills are sometimes placed directly next to each other on the pick ups.

What happens if DEF is put into the fuel tank?

Typically, if DEF is introduced to the fuel tank, the truck will run poorly or even fail to start. Repairs to the fuel system can be costly. Components that have been contaminated with DEF will show crystallization after drying for a few hours as seen in Photo 1. Photo 2 demonstrates what it will look like if DEF and diesel are mixed.

If DEF is accidentally put into the fuel tank, you **MUST** call for service immediately! Do NOT start the engine.

The truck should be looked at immediately by a certified mechanic if you believe DEF has been added to the fuel tank. Starting the engine could result in MAJOR repair costs.

How can I prevent this from happening?

Brenntag offers a variety of signage and educational documents that can be used to alert drivers to the fluid they are dispensing. Accidents happen but with clear signage and education, we may be able to reduce this problem at your facilities.

Photo 1



Photo 2