

Fuel Filter Maintenance – Know Your Basics



1. What are best practices for fuel maintenance intervals?

- Drain water from your primary filter daily when refueling
- Carry a spare set of fuel filters in case you receive a bad load of fuel
- Never switch to more open filters to get longer filter life - this will reduce fuel pump and injector life
- If using biodiesel, make certain your fuel supplier meets current fuel standards
- Ensure that your engine is compatible with the concentration (or percent) biodiesel you wish to use
- When using your own fuel tank, remember that removing contaminants before they reach the vehicle is the best. Therefore, it is best to use some type of bulk filtration.

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TRUCKING



MINING



CONSTRUCTION



MISC.



2. What is difference between primary and secondary fuel filters?

Differences between primary and secondary filters vary from system to system. In general primary filters are used to separate water and larger particles (10-50 micron efficiency) while secondary filters are for final filtration (2-10 micron efficiency). Primary filters usually have treated media to provide water separation performance. This can be either cellulose or a multi-layered synthetic media called melt-blown coupled with cellulose like Donaldson's Synteq™ media. Secondary filters are usually an untreated cellulose or purely synthetic media. These differences mainly have to do with the water separation requirements placed on primary fuel filters.

3. Do all primary fuel filters have a drain and how often should they be drained?

Most primary fuel filters have drain valves that allow the operator to drain the water that has been separated by the filter. The frequency that the primary fuel filter needs to be drained is ultimately dependent on the quality of fuel that is being used. Most OEMs recommend draining the water separator daily. It is also recommended to pay attention to how much water is removed at each drain and adjust your frequency accordingly.

4. How do you ensure that the replacement fuel filter has the correct micron rating appropriate for the engine generation and injection system?

When replacing your fuel filter, ensure that you use an OEM approved replacement or a direct cross from a reputable filter manufacturer.

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