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## Is Your Small Engine at Risk from Ethanol Damage?

Outdoor power equipment engines, including those found in [lawnmowers](#), [chainsaws](#), and [string trimmers](#), are susceptible to corrosion damage caused by E10, or gasoline that contains 10 percent ethanol. E10 is common in most U.S. gas stations. While ethanol has been shown to cause damage to all engines, small engines found in outdoor power equipment run a higher risk of being damaged by ethanol due to less frequent use.

To protect your investment, use a [fuel stabilizer](#) containing an ethanol treatment with each fill-up. This is an easy and inexpensive way you can protect your small engine from corrosive damage caused from ethanol.

Tractor Supply Co. carries an assortment of fuel stabilizers and engine treatments designed to protect your small engine from pre-mature aging. View our assortment of [engine treatments](#) online.

### Why is Ethanol Harmful to Small Engines?

When gasoline sits still inside a small engine, the ethanol has a chance to cause corrosion to the engine components. Ethanol blended fuels have been shown to cause damage to small engines like [lawn tractors](#), [riding mowers](#), chainsaws, string trimmers, and other gasoline-powered outdoor power equipment due to less frequent use. According to small engine repairmen interviewed by *Popular Mechanics* Magazine, there is a rise in small engine repair work, and fewer of the small engine repairs being made are caused by normal wear and tear, these mechanics say. This may be good for small engine mechanics, but it doesn't bode well for you, the consumer.

To make matters worse, E15, or gasoline containing up to 15 percent ethanol, has been approved by the EPA and could become available in gas stations nation-wide by summer of 2012.

Ethanol makes up about 45% of most gasoline in the U.S., and this percentage is expected to continue to rise. While ethanol may not cause damage to your car or pick-up [truck](#), it has been shown to damage small engines that get less use due to winter storage.



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There are easy and inexpensive ways you can prevent damage caused by ethanol blended gas. It is a good idea to use a fuel stabilizer on your small engine every time you fill up. This is especially true when you are winterizing your power equipment in the fall and in the spring when you replace the old fuel for that first start of the season.

Tractor Supply Co. carries a variety of fuel stabilizers and engine treatments you can use to help prevent ethanol damage in your lawnmower engine. Check out our assortment of Traveller®, Sta-Bil®, Chevron Techron®, Sea Foam®, Star Tron®, and Lucas brand fuel stabilizers and engine treatments [here](#). Use these treatments as recommended by the manufacturer to protect your power equipment investment.

### What are Fuel Stabilizers?

Fuel stabilizers are fuel additives that can be used with any gasoline engine, including engines that use gasoline/oil mixtures and ethanol blends. Sta-bil brand fuel stabilizer with ethanol treatment formula helps your small engine in the following ways:

- Prevents corrosion caused by ethanol damage
- Helps clean fuel injectors and intake valves
- Improves engine performance and efficiency

Use a fuel stabilizer ethanol treatment formula as often as every fill-up to prevent further damage caused by the use of ethanol fuel blends.

#### Read More

- [How to Get an Easy First Start on Your Lawn Mower Engine this Spring](#)
- [Small Engine Replacement Motors](#)
- [How to Winterize Lawn and Garden Power Equipment](#)



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