

DEF (DIESEL EXHAUST FLUID) Do's and don'ts

Don't confuse fills. If DEF is filled into the diesel tank, the engine will stop running after a short period of time and can possibly cause serious damage to the engine fuel and SCR system.

Keep the DEF tank fill area and nozzle clean. DEF is supersensitive to airborne and residue contamination. Contaminated DEF will affect SCR system performance and lead to engine de-rating and even engine damage.

Store DEF in dedicated containers, preferably stainless steel drums or HDEP plastic totes or gallon jugs.

DEF is not toxic but is corrosive to metals such as carbon steel, aluminum, copper and zinc. Never uses containers that might have been used to store other fluids.

Store DEF in a cool, dry location out of direct sunlight. The ideal temperature range is 12-86 degrees F (-11 - 30 degrees C).

DEF freezes at 12 degrees F (-11 degrees C) and turns slushy but this doesn't affect performance. If storing DEF in freezing temps, make sure it is in expandable containers. Never put fuel additives in DEF.

Monitor DEF quality with a digital refractometer. The ideal concentration is between 32.5 and 37 percent urea.

DEF can be stored for up to one year in ideal climate conditions.

Top off the DEF tank daily to prevent condensation, which can degrade DEF quality.

Low DEF levels will be indicated by a dashboard light. If the DEF tank is empty, the engine will still run but will start de-rating in a few hours and continue until the DEF is replenished.