

Fuel Additives

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We are often asked by Customers whether they should have fuel additives supplied with their fuel delivery; the honest answer is we don't know!

Kerosene as a fuel has changed considerably over the last decade or so for various reasons ranging from where in the world the crude oil comes from and whether it is refined or sweetened and how aggressively it is treated to remove Sulphur content to meet EU directives.

Additives are supplied or recommended for various reasons, some to provide lubrication for Oil pumps on boilers; but this may affect the combustion of an AGA, others claim to reduce the char value of fuel which is designed to help AGA's and other vapourising appliances. Some additives increase the shelf life of the fuel and others claim to have a cleaning effect on the fuel storage tank while others claim to give you more heat per litre of fuel.

If you choose to use an additive we would recommend you research what is required before you use it, although the Oil company that is trying to sell it to you should actually check any stipulations before they add it to your tank. Water can usually be found in the bottom of fuel storage tanks as a result of condensation, poorly fitting lids and seals, fuel deliveries in wet weather and ingress of snow through vent pipes and associated water from melting snow or ice; some additives supplied by Oil companies have properties similar to Biofuel, and are sold to "clean" your tank but can cause major problems if there is any quantity of water or sediment present and therefore may require the oil tank to be cleaned and purged prior to the use of the additive . Other additives will change the combustion of the appliance and therefore will need to be used constantly otherwise combustion can change massively between deliveries of fuel which in turn will lead to other issues such as boilers smoking.

Additive manufactures or the additives themselves may require an Oil storage tank to be drained, cleaned and purged before it is used, so you should check any stipulations before using any additive.

The first question you should ask yourself is whether you have been experiencing a problem that the additive claims to rectify because if you aren't, will you actually benefit from its use and the additional costs incurred by purchasing it?