

Avoid paraffin particles and condensed water

Pass winter safely with a diesel

Leutenberg, September 20, 2017 – In diesel vehicles, both paraffin particles and ice crystals form in the fuel system because of the extreme cold in winter. These accumulate in the fuel filter and block it. As a result, the engine no longer starts or goes out immediately afterwards. To keep the car running in winter, professional fuel additives are recommended.

Winter diesel is very cold resistant up to $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. However, many cars are sometimes exposed to significantly lower temperatures if they are not parked in a garage at night or at least wind-protected. This creates both paraffin particles and ice crystals in the fuel system, which can accumulate in the fuel filter and block it. The consequence is then that the vehicle does not start the next morning or it goes out immediately after the start. When this happens, there is only the possibility of heating the entire fuel system slowly in a warm room, so that the clogging can dissolve.

Causes of cold-related failures

Why winter diesel alone is not always sufficient to easily pass the cold season, has different reasons. On the one hand, the cold-resistance of the fuel is partly lower than stated, despite the fulfillment of the legal standard. Jens Möller, Head of Research & Development at bluechemGROUP, comments: "This is because the laboratory tests that determine the cold-resistance of the winter diesel do not always simulate the real environmental conditions. Therefore, dangerous amounts of paraffin crystals can already form at temperatures above $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$."

The second problem that affects diesel vehicles in winter is condensation in the fuel system. The phenomenon called "tank-breathing" is responsible for its formation. Jens Möller explains: "At high humidity, due to snow and ice, as well as large temperature differences between day and night, fine water drops form in the fuel system. These can freeze at minus degrees and block the fuel filter. If a diesel vehicle is not moved for a long time in winter, there is the additional risk that bacteria will accumulate in the fuel."

Safety through professional fuel additives

For that a diesel vehicle can safely pass winter, a professional service is recommended with protective fuel system additives. Jens Möller: "The product "Common Rail Diesel System Clean & Protect" by PRO-TEC, the workshop brand of the bluechemGROUP, is able to bind all condensed water so that it can be easily combusted when driving. PRO-TEC "Diesel Conditioner and Anti-Gel" increases the cold-resistance of the fuel and ensures safety at temperatures below $-30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. This means that the automobile is able to cope with all the weather-related challenges of the winter."

About the bluechemGROUP

The bluechemGROUP is a group of companies with global activities and partners in more than 100 countries. As an umbrella brand, it contains a wide range of chemical products for cleaning, care and maintenance in the automotive and industrial sector. The success of the group is based upon the development and patenting of consumption oriented and environmentally friendly products of highest quality expanded by modern workshop, industry and service concepts.

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