

Vecom's unique products: detection pastes

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Water Finder Special

Corrosion damage in oil storage tanks is generally caused by water that finds its way under the oil.

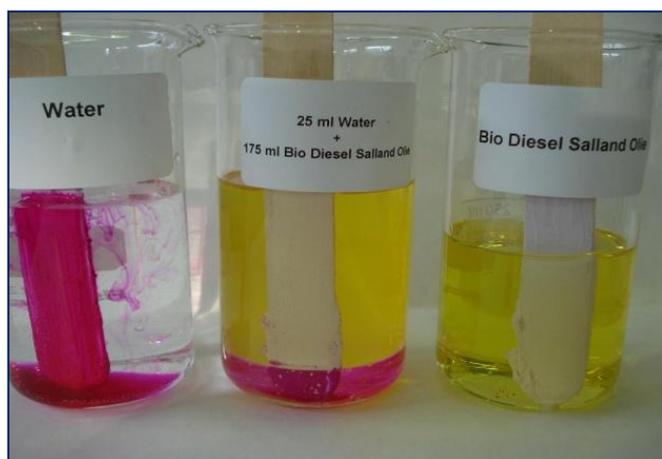
This water is often condensation water, but it can also arrive in tanks through poorly closed manhole covers or incorrectly installed venting pipes. Because of its higher specific gravity the water always sinks to the bottom in the tanks.

Bacteriological contamination soon originates in this water. In low-oxygen conditions these bacteria form various types of corrosive acids, with (pitting) corrosion as a consequence. This phenomenon is called bacteriologically induced corrosion. Tank bottoms and walls with a thickness up to 3 mm can become rusted through by this pitting corrosion in just a few months. Also see TB 2005/13 for more background information on bacteriologically induced corrosion.

It is accordingly of the utmost importance to regularly check for the presence of water, and to empty tanks of water if necessary. With Vecom's WATER FINDER SPECIAL, applied to the bottom of a dip stick or tape measure, the quantity of water in the bottom of the tanks can be simply established. If there is water in the tanks, the Water Finder Special on the dip stick changes colour from light pink to red.



Also relatively large amounts of water in modern fuel oils like biodiesel and HE 15 Bio Super (gasoline with 15% ethanol) can be detected with WATER FINDER SPECIAL. The detection of a small amount of water in HE 15 Bio Super tanks is somewhat difficult because WATER FINDER SPECIAL slightly changes colour because of the HE 15 Bio Super and the difference in colour is not so clear.



Detection of water under Biodiesel



Detection of water under HE 15 Bio Super

Because water and Bio-ethanol E 85 (a mixture of 15% gasoline and 85% ethanol) are fully miscible, there will never be a layer of water in the Bio-ethanol E 85 tank. Due to this, the detection of water in Bio-ethanol E 85 is very difficult. In fact, this can only be done by making a comparison with Bio-ethanol E 85 of which it is certain that it contains no water (WATER FINDER SPECIAL hardly changes colour when in contact with Bio-ethanol E 85).

Gasoline Finder

If with the use of Water Finder Special a quantity of Vecom's GASOLINE FINDER is also applied to the top of the dip stick/tape measure (approximately where one would expect the surface of the oil), one can read off the level of fuel in the tank. GASOLINE FINDER is specially for the detection of the level in tanks with gasoline and other light mineral oils, that are otherwise difficult to determine as they evaporate quickly.

Discolouration from yellow to red on the dip stick then shows the liquid level. The difference between these measurements can be used to calculate the present quantity of fuel, gasoline or other light mineral oils.



Detection of water in Bio-ethanol E 85



Both products are available in in boxes of 20 tubes

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