

Gasoline and Fuel Oils

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F A C T S

Despite its common occurrence and use, gasoline is one of the most dangerous substances found around the home. It is both highly flammable and extremely toxic. **Both** kerosene and diesel fuel are flammable and categorized as toxic petroleum distillate products. Kerosene is used in lamps, domestic heaters or furnaces, jet engine fuel, and as a solvent for greases and pesticides. Diesel fuel has a higher boiling point than kerosene and is used to power diesel engines.

Fuels can damage your health through inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact and **absorption**. The first symptoms of poisoning include flushing, slurred speech, staggering and confusion, and other symptoms similar to intoxication. This may be followed by nausea and head-

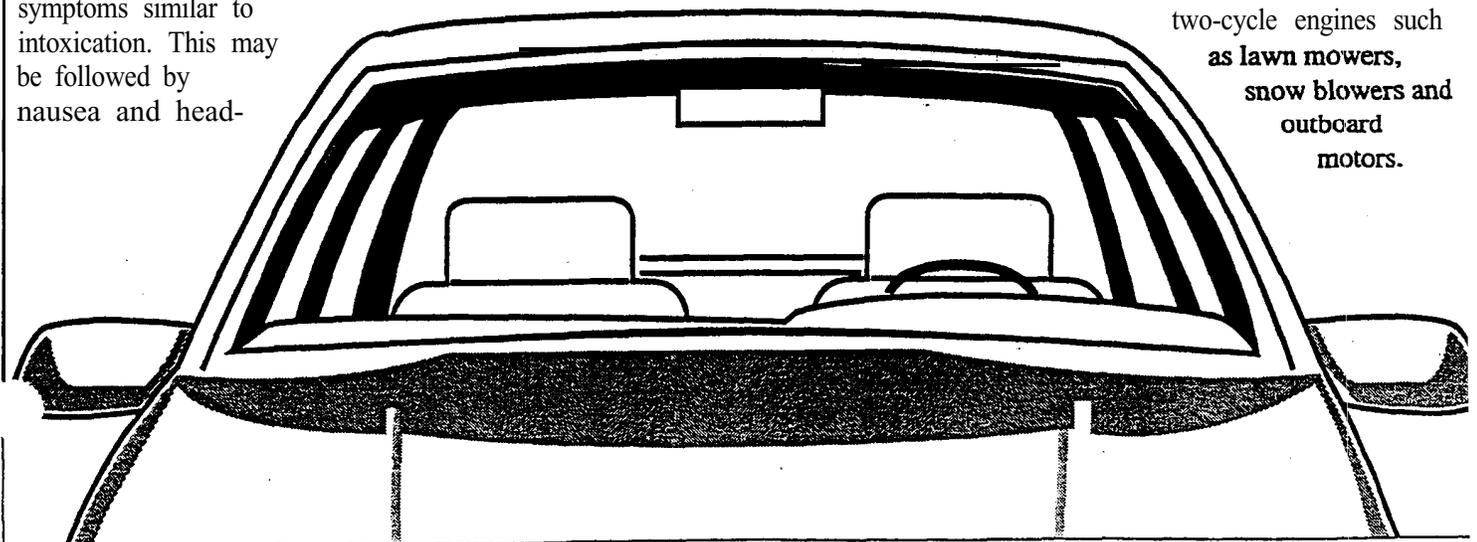
- Fuels can damage your health through inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact and absorption.
- Gasoline is one of the most dangerous substances found in the home due to its flammability. Putting flammable wastes, such as gasoline, in the trash or sewer can cause fires and explosions.

ache, and eventually may lead to coma and death. Any fluids aspirated into the lungs can cause pneumonia and lung lesions. Ingestion of kerosene is a special problem

since it is frequently **improperly** stored in food containers (such as soda pop bottles), and then swallowed by children.

Reconditioning Your Gasoline

Unless contaminated with another substance, these products remain usable under most circumstances. However, as gasoline ages, it tends to lose some of its **ability** to ignite in an engine. Old gas used at full strength may account for sluggish behaviour or temporary failure of an engine. Stored for long periods, gasoline can become contaminated by rust particles, dirt or 'water, or become "gummy" or "varnished." Most gasoline, even if it is old or contains oil or **water**, can be used after it is "reconditioned." Reconditioned gasoline can be **used** in cars and trucks and smaller two-cycle engines such as **lawn mowers, snow blowers and outboard motors.**



Check your owner's manual before using reconditioned gasoline in your engine. **Do not use reconditioned gasoline in a car with a fuel injection system.**

To recondition gasoline, follow these basic instructions:

1. Work outdoors away from open flame and sources of heat or sparks. Do not smoke or wear contact lenses while working with gasoline.
2. Pour the old gasoline into a second container through a funnel lined with a coffee filter or two layers of thin cloth to remove particles.
3. When the filter is dry, throw it in the trash.
4. Mix one part filtered gasoline with five parts new gasoline. You can pour the reconditioned gasoline directly into a tank of new gasoline that is at least threequarters full.

To remove water from gasoline, follow these steps:

Pour the gasoline into a transparent jug. The water will settle to the bottom of the container, because water is heavier than gasoline.

2. Carefully pour off the gasoline into a gas can, leaving the water in the jug.

3. Pour the leftover water into a box lined with plastic and mix with an absorbent material such as sand or "kitty litter". Let the water dry and place the box, plastic, and sand in the trash. **Do not pour the water down the sink, storm drain, or on the ground.**

Gasoline contaminated with antifreeze, brake fluid, carburetor fluid or other unusual substances cannot be reconditioned. If you cannot recondition the gasoline, take it to a local recycling outlet. Call your local solid waste management district (listed under county government) for possible outlets. Check in the yellow pages under "Oils-Waste," or check with companies involved with fuel tank cleaning, removal or servicing. **Do not dispose of fuels down your drain, the storm sewer, or on the ground.**

Storing Your Fuels

1. Keep fuels out of reach of children and pets.
2. Store in an approved safety container such as a metal gas can. Label the container with the contents and the date. For example, if you mix gasoline with oil, label the container of

gasoline with the proportion of oil to gasoline, the engine that uses the mixture, and the date.

3. Do not completely fill the container, fuels need room to expand.
4. Keep away from heat, flame, and sources of ignition. Store in a garage or outbuilding with good ventilation.
5. Do not keep a filled gasoline can in the car. It could explode upon impact.
6. Avoid storing gasoline in a small engine for more than two months. The gasoline can form a residue that coats parts in the engine, increasing engine wear. Before storing, use up gasoline left in engines at the end of a season by running the engine until it empties the gas tank.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management

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Public Interest Center

1800 WaterMark Dr.
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Central District Office

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Northeast District Office

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Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
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Northwest District Office

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