

HEATBASE Ltd FACTSHEET 9

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 the likes. 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. 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 reasonable quantity of water or sediment present. 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.

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 by purchasing it?