



# acts: AdBlue FAQs

Most new diesel cars now use a fluid called AdBlue. If your car does, you will need to top it up at least once in between services. To help you find out what it does, how it works and why it's important we have broken down the most FAQs about AdBlue.

## **What is AdBlue?**

AdBlue is an exhaust fluid stored in a separate reservoir and is located either next to your fuel cap, in the boot or under the bonnet. It's a trade name registered by the German car manufacturers association but is a recognised form of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF).

## **How does AdBlue work?**

Small amounts of AdBlue are injected into the flow of exhaust gases. At increased temperatures AdBlue turns into ammonia and carbon dioxide. Inside the SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction) catalyst, harmful gas nitrogen oxide reacts with the ammonia and is transformed into nitrogen and water. Similar technology has been used effectively for years in buses and lorries.

## **What happens if I run out of AdBlue?**

If you run out of AdBlue when driving the engine's power and performance will be reduced to limit emissions. Once stopped, you will be unable to restart your engine, if the AdBlue tank is empty. The car will give plenty of warning that the AdBlue tank's running low. You typically receive a text warning on your dashboard with around 1500 miles to go followed by an amber warning light.

## **Which cars can use AdBlue?**

Not all car manufacturers use AdBlue technology. But chances are if you've got a diesel from either Jaguar, Land Rover or any French or German manufacturer, and it was registered new after September 2015, it will use AdBlue.

## Where can I buy AdBlue?

AdBlue can be purchased in petrol stations, garages, motor accessory shops, online retailers and even supermarkets. It is available in 1.5, 5 and 10 litre containers. Smaller packs have specially designed necks that allow you top up your tank without risk of spillage. With easy-fill bottles available, you should consider keeping a small container readily available if necessary.

## How long does AdBlue last?

The amount at which you use AdBlue depends on your engine size and how economically you drive. Average consumption is around a litre of AdBlue per 600 miles. But this could reach as high as a litre every 350 miles. AdBlue tank size can also vary, so you could need to refill between 3,000 and 12,000 miles depending on the car and your driving style.

## Is it safe to drive with the AdBlue warning light on?

This is not a major safety issue, however if you don't refill your AdBlue tank you will eventually run out and won't be able to restart the car. When the warning light first comes on, you'll have plenty of time to refill – so don't panic and make sure you don't leave it till the last minute

## Where is the AdBlue tank?

The AdBlue tank is usually located under the boot floor. But the filler cap will typically be a next to the main diesel filler. If not check in the boot or under the bonnet.

## What happens if I put AdBlue in the diesel tank?

Putting AdBlue directly into the fuel tank can cause expensive damage to the pump and injection system. If you were to start the engine it's likely to result in a vehicle write-off, so do not touch the ignition. You'll need to get the tank drained and the contents disposed of safely before you can refill it.

## What happens if I put diesel in the AdBlue tank?

You must not turn on the ignition or start your engine. If you do, then the damage could mean that you have purchase and fit an entirely new Selective Catalytic Reduction and AdBlue injection system.

## How does AdBlue reduce exhaust emissions?

AdBlue is added to your exhaust and mixes with the fumes your car produces. It reacts with nitrogen oxide created by your engine and breaks it down into nitrogen and water vapour. Nitrogen oxide can cause a variety of respiratory problems and can contribute to the formation of smog, acid rain and ground level ozone. Vehicles now have to meet strict exhaust emissions limits and the latest standard, Euro 6, is very challenging on Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) limits. Most cars can only meet the Euro 6 standard when fitted with emissions technology known as Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR). This technology uses AdBlue to break down and reduce harmful emissions.

**Note: this factsheet is not a substitute for professional advice and guidance. Vehicle owners should also check any finance, hire, maintenance agreements and any supplier or manufacturer warranties.**

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