

Microbes in the Engine Room!

You didn't know it... but you have unwanted visitors in your engine room. All water contains microbes, in various quantities, and all fuel contains water. *That's the problem.* Put oil (diesel) and water together and the microbes flourish, especially in the warm engine room.

Sometimes the fuel to buy for your sport-fisher or sailing yacht is the best fuel to be found, and sometimes not. Often, if you travel the Caribbean, South America or the Bahamas, you buy sub-standard fuel. And it can cost you more than just the pump price. If the fuel contains the microbes that love to grow under our tropical climate, (which we love!) they can really damage your engine.

Studies done by Lloyd's have shown that heavily infected fuels will result in filter plugging, fuel starvation, and injector fouling. These problems in turn may accelerate piston ring and/or liner wear rates, causing major problems for the yachtsman.

For a long time chemical additives called biocides were used to help with this problem, but concern that some - of these products may generate toxic by-products and decrease the cetane and the efficiency on the diesel fuel. Cetane is what octane is in the gasoline.

De-Bug "Rips bugs to pieces", is the claim of a new product now available in Puerto Rico. Using a magnetic device, De-Bug works by exposing the fuel to magnetic forces as it passes through the unit and "literally bursts open the contaminating bacteria and kills them, according to De-Bug International. The De-Bug concept is available not just for boats, but for truck fleets, power stations, generators, etc.

PRODUCT REVIEW

According to the company, Be-Bug does more than "kill" the microbes, but breaks them up into small pieces and (they) can be burned as a part of the fuel combustion process.

So far, the New Zealand product has been patented in 27 countries and used in military (Desert Storm) craft and large ships, along with commercial fishing vessels in France and Holland.

Hydrocarbon fuels have three basic problems, 1) water, 2) dirt particles, 3) micro organisms (algae). The first two problems are solved using filtration and water separation systems. For the third, algae, De-Bug is the only solution.

While simply running your engine, DeBug cleans the total fuel supply. The end result is increased reliability, fewer filter changes and an end to algae contamination problems.

Normally located near the fuel tank, in the fuel line, before the filters, no power supply is required, and in theory, no maintenance is needed. De-Bug has been accepted strongly down-under, and is just now getting acceptance in the United States. As always, new products need to be used by a few adventurous people before they get total acceptance, then the rest will follow.

De-Bug is available in Puerto Rico at quality marine stores or by calling the local distributor at Caribbean De-Bug 721-1717, Javier Rodriguez.