



service bulletin

No. 88-14

4 Cycle Valve Recession Additives & Outboard Gasolines

DO NOT USE 4-CYCLE VALVE RECESSIO N ADDITIVES with ANY 2-cycle outboard gasolines.

4-cycle valve recession additives may trigger a reaction with most premium outboard motor oils. This reaction may cause certain 2-cycle additives to precipitate. The precipitation resembles mucous and may clog the in-line fuel filters located between the fuel pump and carburetor(s). If it passes through the in-line fuel filter, it can clog the smaller passages in the carburetor(s). This problem can occur on 2-cycle outboards that use pre-mixed gasoline with oil AND on outboards equipped with AutoBlend and/or outboards equipped with integral oil injection. When gasoline containing 4-cycle valve recession additive mixes with premium outboard motor oil, this precipitation may occur.

MANY MARINAS are blending 4-cycle valve recession additives in the gasoline they sell because they want the owners of older 4-cycle marine engines to have some added protection against premature valve seat wear. We do not object to this practice.

However, as stated in the preceding paragraph, it has recently been determined that these additives may be detrimental when blended with 2-cycle outboard gasolines and oils.

The purpose of this service bulletin is to alert marina operators and dealers of potential problems. The additive suppliers are cooperating with Mercury Marine to determine the source of the problem. As more information becomes available, this bulletin will be updated.

IMPORTANT: Premium outboard motor oils that have been subjected to temperature cycles (changes) including below freezing temperatures may experience precipitation with gasolines that DO NOT contain 4-cycle valve recession additives. However, this happens very infrequently — and extensive testing is being conducted to determine the cause.

You will be advised on both of these issues as soon as more information becomes available.