

**Fact: Opal fuel has the same storage requirements as regular unleaded 91.**

The storage life of regular unleaded fuels is one year when stored under shelter in a sealed container. Once a seal is broken the fuel has a storage life of six months at 20 °C, or three months at 30 °C. If stored in an open container or fuel tank, the storage life is reduced to one month. This can be extended by topping up with one third of fresh fuel, which restores volatile components that have evaporated.

When storing fuel always make sure you use fuel containers that are stamped as meeting AS 2906 and store fuel in a safe, dry place that doesn't have large temperature changes.

**Fact: Opal fuel can't be made 'intoxicating' by using polystyrene to alter the fuel.**

Opal fuel can only be made intoxicating through the addition of an already intoxicating compound.

Opal fuel was assessed and compared to other fuels by an independent toxicologist. The tests concluded that, 'all fuels are potentially toxic, but in terms of chronic exposure, Opal is the least toxic of all the fuels assessed'. Opal still contains some volatile substances and, as with other fuels, it shouldn't be inhaled as it can have adverse health effects and, in extreme cases, may cause suffocation and death.

**Fact: Opal fuel is manufactured by BP Australia.**

Opal fuel is manufactured solely at BP's Kwinana Refinery. Kwinana refinery is based in Western Australia and is the largest refinery in Australia.

**Fact: Australians have been driving around on Opal fuel since 2005.**

Since the launch of Opal fuel in 2005, over 1.5 million fillis<sup>1</sup> have been sold throughout Central Australia.

<sup>1</sup>Based on 84 million litres of Opal fuel manufactured since 2005 launch and average fill of 55 litres, calculated using BP's card customer database average for rural sites in 2009.

**Fact: Opal fuel is effective in helping to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing.**

Petrol sniffing is a highly dangerous form of substance abuse and destroys lives. Australian Government research shows that the introduction of Opal fuel has helped reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing by up to 94% in affected communities.

**Warning:** Sniffing any kind of petrol damages your health and can cause death.

For more information on Opal fuel please call the BP Lubricants and Fuel Technical Helpline on **1300 139 700** or [www.opalfuel.com.au](http://www.opalfuel.com.au)

For more information on why Opal fuel is a safer alternative for the community visit [www.health.gov.au/stoppetrolsniffing](http://www.health.gov.au/stoppetrolsniffing)

# Opal Fuel

## Top up your facts



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Petrol sniffing is a life threatening issue for many people living in remote communities.

Opal fuel has been specially designed to help discourage petrol sniffing. It's safe for use in engines that are compatible with, and will be priced at an equivalent local price to, regular unleaded 91. In fact, the best part about Opal fuel is that Australian Government research shows that it has reduced incidence of petrol sniffing up to 94% in affected communities.

Here's your chance to top up your facts on Opal fuel.

**Fact: Opal fuel is a 91 octane fuel which is safe to use in both cars and boats where the manufacturer recommends the use of regular unleaded 91 octane fuel as a minimum.**

Opal fuel is suitable for use in cars and boats that are compatible with regular unleaded 91, including cars, petrol 4WDs, boats and vans.

Vehicles that shouldn't use Opal fuel include those that require a premium unleaded fuel with an octane rating of 95 or higher. Cars built prior to 1986 may require a lead replacement additive.

In small engines such as two stroke engines, Opal fuel is safe to use where the manufacturer recommends the use of regular unleaded 91 as a minimum. However, for optimum performance, BP recommends the use of premium 95 or 98 octane fuel.

**Fact: Premium Unleaded supply is not affected.**

Premium Unleaded petrol will still be available at your local servo but you might see changes in the way it is sold in your area including:

- > Premium bowzers may be locked when they are not in use
- > Sales of premium unleaded fuel may be monitored
- > Retailers may not sell unleaded fuel in small containers.

**Fact: Opal fuel meets all the specifications for regular unleaded 91.**

Opal fuel meets the National Fuels Quality Standards Act 2000 which provides the legislative basis for national fuel quality and fuel quality information standards for Australia.

**Fact: Opal fuel will be available at an equivalent local price to regular unleaded 91.**

Opal fuel is subsidised under the Australian Government's Petrol Sniffing Prevention Programme. This allows Opal fuel to be priced at an equivalent local rate to regular unleaded 91 octane fuel.

**Fact: Opal fuel has been independently tested.**

An independent automotive testing laboratory report stated that 'there is no significant difference when a vehicle runs on Opal fuel compared to the same vehicle running on regular unleaded petrol'. October 2004

Testing also showed that any difference in fuel economy versus regular unleaded 91 is minor and should be no more than the variability for petrol grades and driving styles.

**Fact: New and improved Opal fuel now contains advanced cleaning technology which has been formulated to help break down the sooty deposits which ordinary fuels can leave behind.**



Fuel inlet valve using ordinary fuel\* after 3200km



Fuel inlet valve using new and improved Opal fuel\* after 3200km

\*Under standard laboratory test conditions

The use of ordinary fuels can leave deposits on critical parts of your engine, preventing it from working as well as it could. New and improved Opal fuel has been specifically formulated to clean your engine as you drive, helping to remove these deposits and prevent new sooty deposits from forming.

Independent laboratory testing on a Toyota V6 engine showed that after 3200km, new and improved Opal fuel cleaned up to 20.8% (with an average of 10.6%) of existing sooty deposits which had formed on vital engine parts such as inlet valves.

**Fact: New and improved Opal fuel is safe to use in boats where the manufacturer recommends the use of regular unleaded 91.**

Independent laboratory testing and preliminary field testing on Opal fuel confirmed that Opal fuel offered equivalent performance to regular unleaded 91.

**Fact: Opal fuel shouldn't require any engine adjustment.**

Vehicles with adjustable engine management systems should be set within the range prescribed by the engine manufacturer. No adjustment should be necessary other than as part of routine maintenance to keep the vehicle in tune and operating at its best.

**Fact: Opal fuel is suitable for all climates.**

Opal fuel is less volatile than regular unleaded fuel. That gives it an advantage in a hot climate, as it is less prone to vapour lock. In a colder climate, operation may result in an increase in engine start up time and slightly rough running until the engine warms up.

**Fact: Opal fuel is compatible with hoses and other fuel system items.**

The use of Opal fuel will not have a direct impact on fuel system components such as hoses. Hoses do deteriorate naturally through use and should be checked regularly as they have a finite service life.