

Q: How does water get into my fuel tank?

A: Every fuel tank requires a breather vent to compensate for the potential vacuum created when fuel is withdrawn by a lift or transfer pump. When the warm, humid air that is constantly entering the tank makes contact with the cooler exposed areas above the fuel level, the formation of condensation is inevitable. The degree of condensation depends on the composition of the tank & the relative humidity of the air. Aluminum and Stainless tanks form condensation far quicker than for instance Fiberglass and plastic tanks. After a while, the drops of water forming on the underside of the tank tops become heavy & they drop into the fuel. As fuel is lighter than water, these droplets migrate down to the bottom of the tank where they accumulate over time.

Water can also become an unwanted visitor in the fuel tank by entering through a leaking 'o' ring on the filler cap, corrosion, a poorly positioned breather vent or from the source of delivery.