

**Wheels:** William via e-mail has a question about ethanol. “I was wondering if you could answer a question I have about using gas with ethanol in it? I have a Bonneville SSEi that requires premium fuel and I have noticed that a lot of stations in the area are using ethanol in their premium fuel. I never thought much about it until I was talking about it at work the other day and several of the people I was talking with said that they had read and heard that fuel with ethanol in it was harmful to engines of high performance cars. I would appreciate it if you could tell me if this is true or just some wrong information they gave me.”

**Halderman:** Ethanol is the good alcohol and is made from grain (usually corn). You should avoid using fuel that contains methanol which is also called wood alcohol. Methanol is very corrosive and will damage fuel pumps, lines, and fuel injectors unless the engine is specially designed to run methanol such as race cars. It is rare that methanol is added to gasoline so I would not be concerned about accidentally getting methanol when you purchase gasoline. Both alcohols contain about one-half of the BTU (heat) of pure gasoline. This means that even though both have a high octane rating (about 110), the engine may produce fewer miles per gallon. I would recommend that you continue to use premium grade gasoline purchased from a busy station to help be assured that the gasoline is fresh. I use gasoline that contains ethanol. Sometimes you may get a rough idle or even a stall after a hot soak due to the alcohol's lower vapor pressure. Besides this concern, there is no reason to not use it if you can't find pure gasoline. I hope this information helps.

