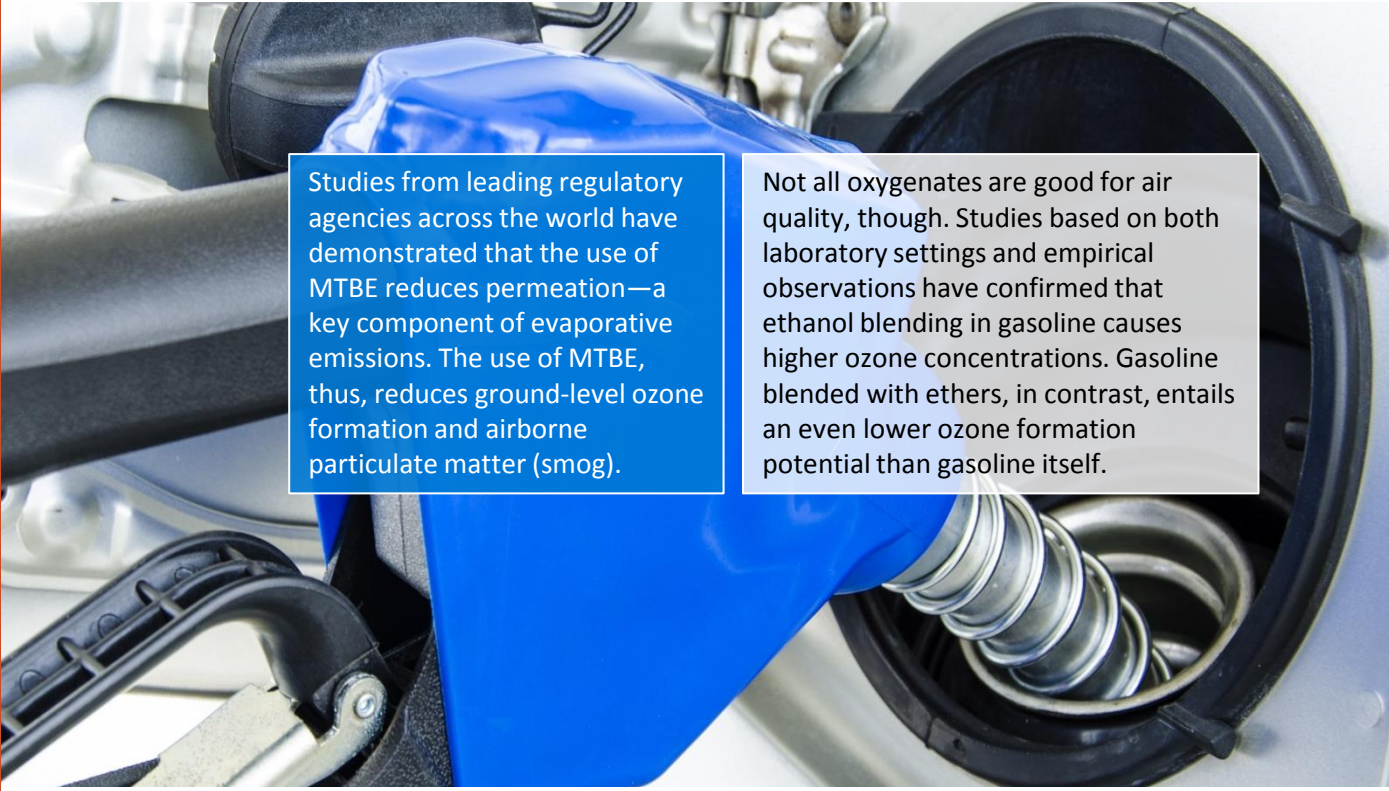


The use of ethers (MTBE, ETBE) as fuel oxygenates results in more complete and efficient fuel combustion. This translates into direct cost and air quality benefits.

Direct benefits of ether use include the reduction of regulated pollutants, such as carbon monoxide (CO) and unburned hydrocarbons (HCs), as well as other serious criteria pollutants, such as particulate matter (PM) and ground-level ozone (O₃).



Studies from leading regulatory agencies across the world have demonstrated that the use of MTBE reduces permeation—a key component of evaporative emissions. The use of MTBE, thus, reduces ground-level ozone formation and airborne particulate matter (smog).

Not all oxygenates are good for air quality, though. Studies based on both laboratory settings and empirical observations have confirmed that ethanol blending in gasoline causes higher ozone concentrations. Gasoline blended with ethers, in contrast, entails an even lower ozone formation potential than gasoline itself.

The use of ethers also results in positive indirect effects, due to the dilution of other gasoline pool components—such as olefins, aromatics, sulfur, and benzene levels. As air quality comes to the forefront of public health discussions throughout the region, these gasoline pool components are facing increasingly strict direct and indirect regulation.

BETTER CHEMISTRY = BETTER FUEL

To learn more about ethers, the preferred fuel oxygenates, visit www.combustibleseficientes.org