

SPRING DIESEL START-UP CHECKLIST

Print this page and keep it in your shop or glove box to ensure your equipment is ready for the season.

STEP 1: FUEL STABILIZATION & DE-WATERING

- Add Clear-Diesel® Fuel & Tank Cleaner:** Remove winter condensation and “polish” fuel that has been sitting for 4+ months.
- Check Fuel Appearance:** Ensure fuel is clear and bright; if it looks “milky” or contains dark “slime,” a biocide treatment may be required.
- Inspect Filler Neck:** Check for debris or water entry points around the tank cap.

STEP 2: THE “FLUSH” DEEP CLEAN

- Initial Tank Treatment:** Add **Diesel Injector & DPF Flush** to your very first tank of the season.
- Monitor DPF Performance:** Ensure your exhaust system is reaching proper operating temperatures to clear out stored soot.
- Listen for “Nailing”:** Pay attention to engine noise; detergents will begin smoothing out injector flow rates as you drive.

STEP 3: HARDWARE & MECHANICAL WALKAROUND

- Inspect Air Intake:** Check the air-filter box for rodent nests or chewed wiring.
- Test Battery Voltage:** Ensure you have maximum Cold Cranking Amps (CCAs) for high-compression diesel starts.
- Check Oil & Coolant:** Look for oil separation or milky residue. Ensure coolant levels and pH are within spec.
- Check DEF Quality:** If equipped, ensure Diesel Exhaust Fluid hasn’t crystallized or expired (shelf life is ~1 year).
- Tire Inspection:** Check for sidewall cracks (dry rot) and set pressures to manufacturer specifications.

STEP 4: THE FIRST START-UP

- Warm-Up Idle:** Let the engine idle for 3–5 minutes. Do not rev the engine immediately; allow oil to reach the turbocharger.
- Replace Fuel Filters:** After running your first treated tank, replace your fuel filters to clear out any loosened winter sludge.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE (EVERY FILL-UP)

- Add Diesel Kleen +Cetane Boost:** Continue using this with every tank to maintain lubricity, improve fuel economy, and boost cetane for smoother performance.