



SAFETY TIPS

AVOIDING CONTAMINATION IN THE FUEL SYSTEM

Minimizing the risk of water in the fuel system:

1. If the area around the fuel caps is wet, use a dry towel to clean the area before removing the caps to check the fuel level

2. Observe each sample, check for fuel color and clarity

3. Hold the sample cup to a white painted surface to make sure fuel color is correct

4. Remember water will sink to the bottom because water is heavier than fuel

5. If you need to add fuel before a flight, make sure you take additional samples due to contamination from the line fuel truck or self serve pump

Everything we do in life involves some degree of risk, especially when flying an airplane. One anomaly present is the risk of having water in the fuel system. Water can enter the fuel system from a variety of places including the fuel caps.



Photo credit: CFI Gabriel Rochell

During the preflight; the checklist will guide the pilot to take a fuel sample including one or more sumps for each wing tank and near the engine.

Water is heavier than aviation fuel and it will sink to the bottom thus allowing the pilot to safely drain it out before each flight. If water remain trapped it could cause the engine to sputter or even quit during takeoff and climb.