

FREEING A "STUCK" ENGINE

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I recently came across some engines that were stuck from years of sitting around without protection, which caused the castor oil to solidify to the point the engines would not turn over.

To free them up, I first squirted air tool oil in them and they would still not turn over. The next step was to soak them in a quart can partially filled with 15 percent fuel and put the lid on it and wait to see if they would loosen up. You can buy the quart cans at Home Depot or similar stores in their paint department. I took out the glow plug and then submerged them for a couple days, or weeks for the more stubborn ones. Surprisingly enough, after a few days most of them would free up enough that you could turn them over and add air tool oil to the piston, liner and intake to lube everything well. The fuel tends to clean the surfaces and dissolve some of the deposits.

This will not work in the really stubborn cases, and for those engines you have to bake them in antifreeze in a crockpot. Remember to remove the plastic parts, as they will be damaged. I have not done this myself, though, but at a minimum I would do it in your garage and keep it away from the pets and small kids, since the antifreeze is a poison. I suggest you talk to someone who has employed this technique before, but I have heard it will free up the most stubborn engine.

To avoid the problem in the first place you should always run out your fuel in the motor and lube it with air tool oil after the flying session by squirting a few drops in the intake and exhaust and turning the engine over. I use Marvel Mystery air tool oil that you can buy at any Pepboys store. Cover your engines after using them also to keep the dust and dirt off of them.