

**U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Alternative Fuels Data Center**

What is Methanol?

Methanol (CH₃OH) is an alcohol fuel. Today most of the world's methanol is produced by a process using natural gas as a feedstock. However, the ability to produce methanol from non-petroleum feedstocks such as coal or biomass is of interest for reducing petroleum imports.

Chemical Properties: As engine fuels, ethanol and methanol have similar chemical and physical characteristics. Methanol is methane with one hydrogen molecule replaced by a hydroxyl radical (OH). See the fuel properties table ([PDF 116 KB](#)) for more information. [Download Adobe Reader.](#)

For more information go to the [Methanol Institute's](#) Web site.

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