

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

Methanol Benefits

Methanol's physical and chemical characteristics result in several inherent advantages as an automotive fuel. Some methanol benefits include lower emissions, higher performance, and lower risk of flammability than gasoline. In addition, methanol can be manufactured from a variety of carbon-based feedstocks such as natural gas, coal, and biomass (e.g., wood) and the use of methanol would help reduce U.S. dependence on imported petroleum. On the down side, methanol produces a high amount of formaldehyde in emissions.

In addition, methanol can easily be made into hydrogen. Some researchers are currently working to overcome the barriers to using methanol as a hydrogen fuel source. So methanol may potentially be used to create hydrogen for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in the future.

To learn more about how methanol can be used in hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, visit the [Methanol Institute's Fuel Cell](#) Web page.

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