

DIESEL TANK COMPARISON				
TANK MATERIAL	ALUMINUM (SERIES 5052, 5086)	POLYETHYLENE	STAINLESS STEEL	FIBERGLASS
LONG-TERM DURABILITY	GOOD: Rugged, suffers minimal expansion, easily fabricated, but more subject to corrosion.	FAIR: Won't corrode, but tank is prone to chafe, flex, and expansion.	GOOD: Long lasting if installed properly, but not immune to corrosion.	EXCELLENT: A well-made custom fiberglass tank should last the life of the boat.
EASE OF FABRICATION	GOOD: An experienced welder can fabricate a rugged tank, but care is needed at fittings to prevent corrosion.	POOR: Cannot be custom fabricated.	GOOD: An experienced welder can fabricate a durable tank. Welds require special attention.	FAIR: Requires strict adherence to standards for constructing a fiberglass fuel tank.
EASE OF INSTALLATION	FAIR: Special care required to prevent corrosion.	FAIR: Must allow for tank expansion. Perfect fit may be impossible.	FAIR: Special care required to prevent corrosion.	GOOD: Needs no extreme measures to protect against corrosion.
EASE OF MAINTENANCE	GOOD: Provided installation and tank construction is sound.	POOR: Cannot be fitted with cleaning ports.	GOOD: if construction and installation is sound.	EXCELLENT: No need to monitor for corrosion.
COMMENTS	The best value for most cruisers, corrosion the chief concern.	Last choice, but the cheapest option for a corrosion-free tank.	Much more expensive than aluminum, but less prone to corrosion.	Expensive, long-lasting choice, if done right.