Finding E85, E15 and other flex fuels for your vehicle

High-ethanol-content fuels such as E15, a 15-percent concentration of ethanol, and E85, an 85-percent concentration, sometimes can be hard to find. Because interest in these less-expensive, cleaner-burning fuels is growing rapidly, the number of gas stations at which these fuels are available is growing quickly.

You can utilize a number of resources to locate the nearest gas stations with higher ethanol blends — some can be used with your smartphone, others are internet-based, still others are incorporated into you use in your vehicle navigation devices. Here are some of the choices in each category:

Smartphone resources

You can find several apps for iPhone at the iPhone App Store and for Android devices at Google Play. The apps include:

- **Flex Finder** – With this app industry group Growth Energy promotes the use of ethanol as a renewable fuel, helps find the closest E85 and flex fuel stations. It allows you to get directions and see a list of stations along a route. It also has a searchable database of vehicles capable of operating on mid- and high-level blends.

- **Flex-Fuel Station Locator** – This Renewable Fuels Association app is among the best available and has functions to help you find the nearest E85 stations and pricing, FFVs and it allows you to add you favorite stations for quick reference.

- **Alternative Fueling Station Locator** – Produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, this app helps you find E85, biodiesel and other renewable fuels using your current location or entering a custom location. This app contains information on more than 15,000 alternative fueling stations throughout the country.

- **Wex Connect** – Wex Connect allows you to search for E85 and other fuels by station and lowest cost. It features maps and directions, as well as the ability to save your favorite sites and even share the app through Facebook, texting and e-mailing.

Navigation

- **Tom-Tom** – This GPS navigation provider through its LIVE Services allows you to see the latest fuel price data updated daily. With a few quick taps, you can get a list of stations near you, their distance from your location, and LIVE Services will display their prices on a gallon of Regular, Mid-grade, Premium, Diesel, and E85 Ethanol gas, if available.

- **Garmin** – Many current Garmin GPS devices allow you to upload POIs (points-of-interest) that are searchable and available to you on the road. You could use a POI file of E85 stations from E85Prices.com or Choose Ethanol, for example, and use Garmin’s POI Loader to add it to your device, available from the webpage: http://www.garmin.com/us/maps/poiloader.

- **Choose Ethanol E85 POI Uploads** – Choose Ethanol, operated by the Renewable Fuels Association, provides a list of U.S. stations that offer E85 that you can upload to your Tom-Tom or Garmin GPS navigation devices. The point-of-interest (POI) upload is updated quarterly and is available at the following URL: http://chooseethanol.com/pages/have-a-garmin-download-the-e85-station-poils.

- **E85Prices.com** – E85Prices.com offers a list of 3,400+ stations that you can import into your Garmin, Tom-Tom or other GPS device that can accept POI uploads as CSV files. Go to the URL: http://www.e85prices.com/export_form.php.

Internet resources

If you can’t or prefer not to use a navigation device and you’d like to plot out the nearest stations, here are some internet resources that should help:

- **Alternative Fuels Data Center** – This site, operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, allows you to search for multiple alternative fuels. To search for E85, use the dropdown menus in the selector to choose fuel type and locality. http://www.afdc.energy.gov/locator/stations/

- **Flex Fuel Station Finder** – Offered by Growth Energy’s Ethanol Retailer site, you can search for stations that offer higher ethanol blends by ZIP code, city and state. Icons tell you if the station offers only E85 or also a variety of ethanol blends. The page also includes links to Growth Energy’s Flex Finder smartphone app for iPhone and Android devices. See it here: http://www.ethanolretailer.com/flex-fuel-station-finder

- **E85Vehicles.com** – Although the name of this sight would imply that it’s focused only on E85 vehicles, it includes a tab for E85 stations, which allows you to see and search for stations in your area by city or ZIP code. It also will allow you to generate and print directions. The website is found here: http://www.e85vehicles.com/e85-stations.html.