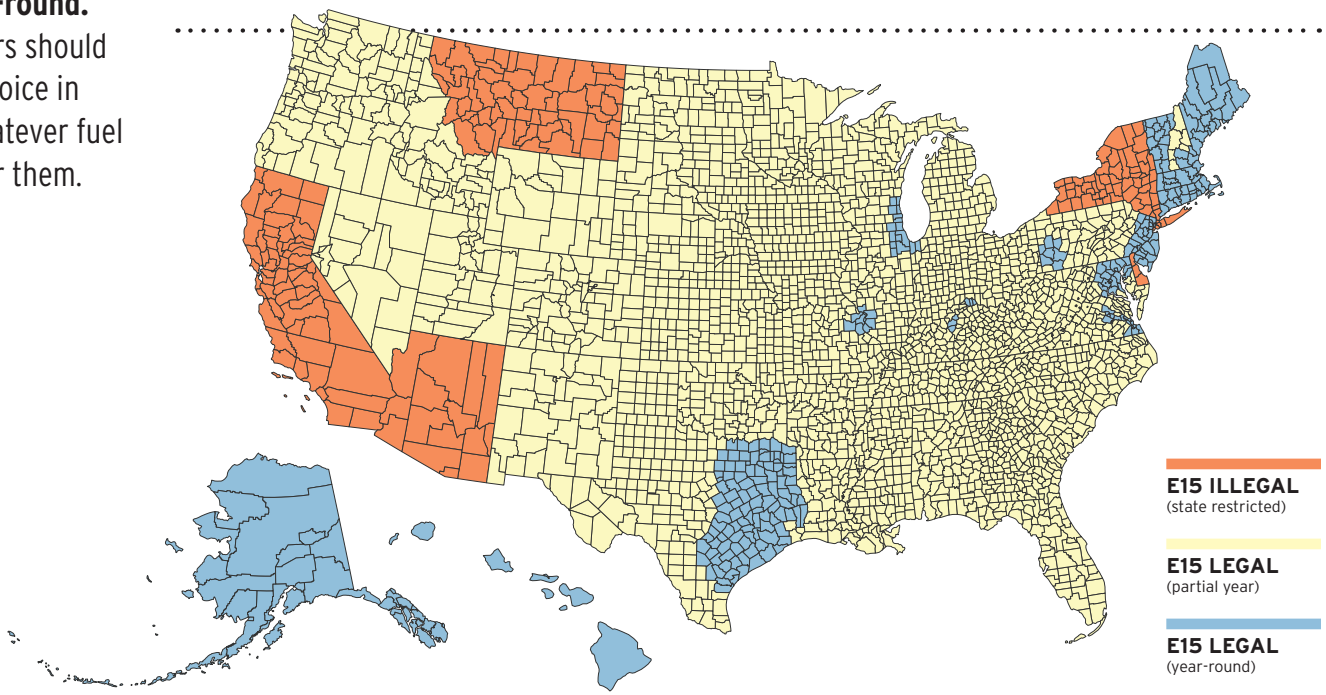
RVP Limitation Restricts E15 Availability

QUICK READ

All states deserve the ability to sell E15 year-round. Consumers should have a choice in using whatever fuel is best for them.

Despite having lower emissions than E10 and being available for sale year-round in areas with air quality challenges, E15 cannot be sold in most areas of the country even if drivers want it.



Federal law limits the evaporative haze that comes when you refuel in the summer, which can cause smog. Because ethanol-blended fuels reduce carbon monoxide, tailpipe, and particulate emissions, Congress granted 10 percent ethanol blended fuel a regulatory allowance as a tradeoff for those improved emissions.

That treatment was granted in 1990, 21 years before E15 was approved as a fuel. Congress did not envision a 15 percent ethanol fuel, but they certainly did not intend for the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) provision to limit the availability of ethanol-blended gasoline. In fact, this provision was designed in part to encourage the use of ethanol in fuel.

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