



Stop, Don't Top!

Protect Air Quality and Save Money at the Gas Pump

The next time your gas station attendant asks you if you would like to “top it off,” just say no! Topping off your gas tank is a habit that contributes to air pollution problems and poses health risks to people exposed to gasoline fumes that escape when your tank is full. So, the next time you think of topping off, consider this:

**Did you know...
spilling one ounce
of gasoline pro-
duces the same
volatile organic
compound emis-
sions as a car
driving 56 miles?**

— Santa Barbara County Air
Pollution Control District

- ✓ You need extra room in your gas tank to allow gas to expand. (If you fill up in the morning, the gas expands as the air temperature rises during the day.) Topping off can foul up your system and cause your car to run poorly and emit more pollutants.
- ✓ Vapors released when topping off are harmful to your health. Gasoline vapors contains many harmful compounds, including benzene, a known carcinogen. These vapors also contribute to the formation of harmful ozone.
- ✓ Vapors released when topping off pose a health risk to gas station attendants who are exposed to the gas fumes constantly during their work shifts.
- ✓ Gasoline spilled on the ground by topping off evaporates and escapes into the air causing pollution. You also just paid for the gas that spilled!
- ✓ Topping off can cause gasoline to spill out of the gas tank onto your car's surface, damaging the paint.

Many individuals making small changes, like not topping off, can have a positive impact on air quality. Other simple things you can do to reduce air pollution are refueling your car in the evening, taking the bus, riding your bike, not idling your vehicle, and combining errands into a single trip. It all adds up to cleaner air!

For more information about air quality in Lane County and additional things you can do to protect our airshed, call the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency at 736-1056.



1010 Main Street • Springfield, Oregon 97477

(541) 736-1056 (phone) • (541) 726-1205 (fax)

www.lrapa.org