

# clean air & gas pumps

## Stop at the click — Avoid topping off the tank

**Click!** That's the sound the gas pump makes when your fuel tank is full. But many people squeeze in a little extra to round off the dollar amount or try to go just a little longer between fill-ups.

When you top off your tank, the extra gas you're paying for doesn't necessarily go to your engine. It may get stuck in the hose or the gas pump's vapor recovery system or dribble onto the ground when you remove the nozzle.

Topping off the tank also lets more gasoline vapor escape into the air. Gasoline vapor and gasoline that evaporates from spills can react with heat and sunlight to form ground-level ozone, the chief air pollutant in the Kansas City region.

You can help protect your health, your vehicle and the environment every time you fill up by breaking the "top-off" habit.



Stopping at the click helps on-board vapor recovery systems work properly. With these systems, gasoline vapors are burned as fuel, not released into the air.

Since 2000, on-board vapor recovery systems, which keep 400,000 tons of toxics out of the air each year and save 78 million gallons of gas, have been required on all car models.

Stopping at the click helps your health, too. Some hazardous components of gasoline, such as benzene, MTBE and toluene, can affect the central nervous system and may be linked to cancer.

### Breathe easier.

The gasoline fumes that escape when you top off the tank contain hazardous air pollutants, such as benzene. Stopping at the "click" will reduce your exposure to these fumes and to ozone.

### Keep your car in good shape.

Cars have on-board vapor recovery systems that send gasoline vapors to the engine to be used as fuel rather than letting them escape into the air. But for these systems to work, your gas tank needs room at the top for gas to expand. Topping off the tank can harm the on-board vapor recovery system, leading to poorer performance, poorer gas mileage and increased emissions. Stopping at the "click" will keep your car running more efficiently.

### Protect the watershed.

Every drop of gasoline that drips onto the concrete when you fill up can contaminate streams, groundwater or soil.



Spilling one ounce of gasoline (a shot glass worth) produces the same amount of emissions as driving a car about 56 miles.

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