FUEL TANK CONSTRUCTION

Air vent: Each fuel tank must be equipped with a non-spill air vent (such as a ball check). The air vent may be combined with the fill pipe cap or safety vent, or it may be a separate unit installed on the fuel tank.

Safety venting system: A fuel tank with a 25 gallon or greater capacity of fuel must have a venting system that will prevent internal tank pressure from rupturing the tank's body, seams, or bottom opening during a fire.



Overfill restriction: A fuel tank manufactured on or after January 1, 1973, must be designed and constructed so that:

- a) The tank cannot be filled, in a normal filling operation, with a quantity of fuel that exceeds 95% of the tank's liquid capacity.
- b) When the tank is filled, normal expansion of the fuel will not cause fuel spillage.

TOPPING OFF

Adding more fuel after the automatic shut off clip has been activated is commonly known as "topping off."



Topping off is not recommended because it may interfere with the proper operation of the vehicle's emission controls. Emission controls are designed to allow for the expansion of gas vapors inside the vapor volume space. The vapor volume space is shown on the diagram inside of this brochure.

The vapor volume space and filler pipe volume are not considered part of the vehicle fuel tank capacity.

Observe warning labels on the pump that advise consumers not to top off their tanks. When the nozzle stops, the tank is sufficiently filled.



Contact:

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Fuel Tank Capacity





Weights and Measures Program

UNDERSTANDING FUEL TANK CAPACITY

When filling a standard fuel tank there are portions of the tank that can physically hold fuel but **should not be filled for safety reasons**. Adding fuel after the nozzle stops can overfill the tank and fill the space reserved for the vapor volume and filler pipe. The vapor space and filler pipe volume are not considered part of the fuel tank capacity.

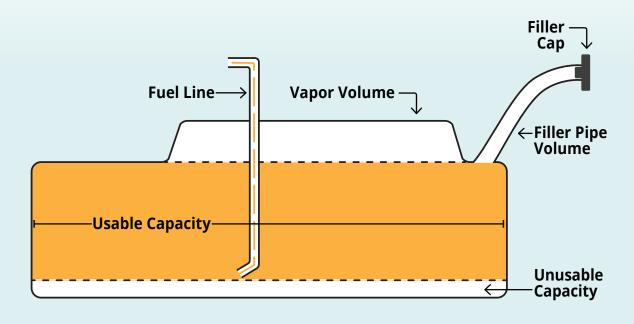
The owner's manual will list the approximate usable fuel tank capacity; it is not an exact amount. When filling the tank, you should only fill up to the usable capacity. Do not continue to pump more fuel after the automatic shutoff has stopped the flow of fuel from the fuel pump.

U.S. DOT

NHTSA = National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

www.nhtsa.gov





FUEL GAUGES

A vehicle fuel gauge usually approximates how much fuel is in a tank. It is not an exact measurement of how much fuel you have in the tank. Each vehicle has a designed fuel level assembly or sensor set to a level. Most vehicles will notify the driver a few miles before the vehicle is completely out of fuel with a low fuel warning light. See your owner's manual for details.

FUEL CANS

Fuel cans are not accurate measuring devices. The quantities indicated on a fuel can are approximate volumes only and vary from brand to brand. Plastic fuel cans are

