

	MONTGOMERY COLLEGE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	Page 1 of 2	
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Subject	Filling and Transporting Gasoline in Portable Gas Cans		
Subject: Filling and Transporting Gasoline in Portable Gas Cans			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• INTENDED AUDIENCE: Facilities Staff filling and transporting Gasoline in approved portable containers.• PURPOSE: To instruct Montgomery College Facilities staff on the correct procedures for filling and transporting gasoline in portable containers.			
Filling Portable Gas Cans Safely			
<p>It is crucial to exercise extreme caution when filling portable gasoline cans from a pump. Gasoline is an extremely volatile refined product. It can catch fire, explode, and burn rapidly. Follow these steps:</p>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use only approved and properly labeled gasoline containers. The gas can should be red and have an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) stamp on it.2. Place the container on the ground before filling, and ensure the filler nozzle touches the rim of the filler opening to help dissipate static electricity.3. Fill the container only 95 percent full. Leave an air space so the fuel can expand as temperatures increase.4. Always fill the can manually; never use the trigger lock on the nozzle.5. Turn off your car's motor before fueling and extinguish any cigarettes or open flames.6. Never fill a container inside a vehicle or truck bed.7. Wipe the can clean before putting it in the vehicle (or hose it off).			
How to Transport a Fuel Container			
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Verify that the spout and vent cap, if applicable, are secure and tight.2. Place the gas can on a flat surface in the truck bed.3. Secure the gas can in place so that it cannot move around or tip over.4. Before removing the gas can, discharge static electricity by touching the outside of your vehicle.5. Always use the designated container type for flammable liquids. Gasoline cans are red, diesel cans are yellow, and kerosene cans are blue.6. Never store a gas can inside your vehicle or the trunk.7. Never transport a faulty or leaking container.			
Equipment Refueling			
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Shut off the motor and give time to cool before refueling.2. Don't refuel near an open flame or near a sparking situation.3. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.4. Don't spill the fuel.5. Don't overfill the fuel tank. On hot days, allow for expansion.6. Stay safe. Use only approved gas cans.			

Subject Filling and Transporting Gasoline in Portable Gas Cans

Hazard Identification

In recent incidents reported to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), fires spontaneously ignited when workers or others attempted to fill portable gasoline containers (gas cans) in the backs of pickup trucks equipped with plastic bed liners or in cars with carpeted surfaces. Serious skin burns and other injuries resulted. Similar incidents in the last few years have resulted in warning bulletins from several private and government organizations.

These fires result from the buildup of static electricity. The insulating effect of the bed liner or carpet prevents the static charge generated by gasoline flowing into the container or other sources from grounding. The discharge of this buildup to the grounded gasoline dispenser nozzle may cause a spark and ignite the gasoline. Both ungrounded metal (most hazardous) and plastic gas containers have been involved in these incidents.



Fire Hazard: Filling a gas can in a pickup truck with a plastic bed liner.

Safe Practice: Always place the gas can on the ground before refueling. Touch the can with the gas dispenser nozzle before removing the can lid. Keep the gas dispenser nozzle in contact with the can inlet when filling.

Recommendations For Prevention

Construction workers and others in small businesses who often work with gasoline-powered equipment commonly use portable gasoline containers. Homeowners use gasoline cans for their lawn mowers and other equipment.

- Avoid the hazardous practice of leaving the portable gasoline containers in pickup trucks or cars when refueling!
- Before filling, always remove the containers from the vehicle and place them on the ground at a safe distance from the vehicle (provides a path to dissipate static charge to ground).
- Touch the container with the gas dispenser nozzle before removing the container lid (provides another path to dissipate static charge to ground).
- Keep the nozzle in contact with the container inlet when filling (to dissipate static charge buildup from the flow of gasoline).