

NEWS RELEASE



Ohio **E✓**Check
Vehicle Emissions Testing Program

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OHIO E-CHECK WILL REPLACE FAULTY GAS CAPS WITH FREE, NEW, FUNCTIONAL CAPS

Twinsburg, OH – Beginning today, Northeast Ohio motorists can put a cap on polluting gasoline vapors. Ohio E-Check will replace faulty or missing gas caps, free of charge, in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit counties.

A missing gas cap—or one that does not seal properly—permits hydrocarbons to escape from the gasoline tank. A vehicle with a faulty gas cap can allow up to 22 gallons of gasoline to evaporate into the air - costing motorists money and polluting the environment. Hydrocarbons contribute to ground-level ozone pollution commonly referred to as smog. Smog is unhealthy for anyone to breathe, but especially troublesome for senior citizens, children and people with respiratory or heart conditions.

“By providing free gas caps at E-Check stations, we can remedy most gas cap issues **on the spot**, saving motorists a return trip and immediately improving air quality” said David Alspaugh, Ohio EPA and E-Check program manager.

In 2007, 25,349 vehicles failed the gas cap portion of E-Check. The new gas cap replacement program is a motorist convenience that will reap immediate benefits in terms of emissions reductions by shortening the time that vapors can escape from a gas tank.

Caps distributed at E-Check stations will fit approximately 90 percent of all cars tested at the stations. If a vehicle has a unique gas cap that is not stocked at the station, the motorist will receive a \$5 gas gift card – the approximate equivalent to the cost of a replacement gas cap.

Passenger cars and trucks emit approximately 45 percent of the pollutants that contribute to smog formation – accounting for the single largest source. E-Check is one of Ohio’s most effective programs for reducing harmful vehicle emissions, responsible for removing 250 tons of vehicle pollution per day from Northeast Ohio’s air.

Emissions testing provides an opportunity for motorists to be a part of the solution for improving air quality. Over the years, Ohio EPA has made a commitment to clean air and to making E-Check convenient for motorists. Recent strategies include making the E-Check free of charge, exempting the four newest model year cars, faster On-Board Diagnostic inspections for 1996 and newer vehicles, and an informative Website and a toll-free hotline where motorists considering the purchase of a used car can verify its E-Check history.

“Until today, a failed gas cap meant potentially two extra trips for the motorist: one trip to purchase the new gas cap and another trip back to the testing station,” added Alspaugh. “We are very happy to be able to add free gas caps to the list of services and conveniences we are providing to our motorists, while continuing to enhance air quality in Northeast Ohio.”

The Ohio E-Check program began in 1996. By identifying and encouraging repairs of passenger vehicles emitting high levels of pollution, E-Check is a major part of Ohio’s plan for reducing air pollution.

Normal station hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Stations are closed Sundays and holidays. Motorists may call 1-800-CAR-TEST (227-8378) or visit the Web site at www.ohioecheck.org for additional information about the E-Check program.