



# Focus on Gas Cap Checks

From the Department of Ecology's Air Quality Program

## Part of the Emission Check Program

### ***Why test gas caps?***

The gas cap is an important part of your vehicle's vapor control system. The vapor control system recovers and reuses gasoline vapors, but it can only work if the gas cap is not leaking. A sealed gas cap prevents gasoline vapors from escaping into the air, which causes air pollution and wastes fuel even when your vehicle isn't running. The seal can appear intact yet still leak.

### ***Which vehicles need a gas cap check?***

Currently, the gas cap check applies to all gasoline vehicles with the exception of some older trucks and motor homes.

### ***What is the charge for the emission check?***

The emission check fee is \$15, payable at the test stations by cash, check, or credit card.

### ***Will my gas cap pass the test?***

Most vehicles pass their gas cap test. In general, the older the vehicle, the more likely the cap will fail. But sometimes even new caps can leak, especially locking caps.

### ***If my gas cap fails the test, what should I do next?***

You should replace your gas cap with a new one, and then return to the test station with the vehicle. If your vehicle failed only the gas cap test, do not return to the test lanes. Go to the station office to have your new gas cap tested. If your vehicle failed both the gas cap test and the emission check, return to the test lanes for a retest.

### ***Other things to remember about the emission check***

- + No pets are allowed.
- + Idle speed must be below 1100 rpms to complete the emission test.
- + Be sure to bring your gas cap key(s) with you for the gas cap check.
- + If your vehicle failed only the gas cap test you still need to return with your vehicle.

### ***For more information***

In Clark and Pierce Counties: 1-800-453-4951

In King and Snohomish Counties: (425) 649-7021 or 1-800-272-3780

In Spokane County: Please ask for the Emission Check staff on call at (509) 329-3491

*If you need this information in another format, please call Tami Dahlgren at (360) 407-6880. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711, or 1-800-833-6388 for TTY.*