

# Locking Gas Caps

Locking gas caps have been around for ages and are such a mundane security item that their use is easily overlooked. However, with the price of gas on an upward climb, desperate people will go to extreme measures to stay on the road.

Through the years, most gas theft was done by the young and reckless or an occasional low-life who tried to save money by letting you buy his gas.

Without a locking gas cap, stealing your gas was a no-brainer — about 6 foot of old garden hose and the skill to start the sphyoning flow without digesting gas or breathing the fumes, was all that was needed.

In later years, some manufacturers tried to make the insertion of the sphyoning hose more difficult by adding baffles to the filler neck. Gas thieves got around this by using smaller hose and a small rotary pump, powered by a cordless drill.

Gas tanks were, also, a vulnerable point for vandals, who could, easily, put sand or other contaminants in your tank — In extreme cases, requiring a replacement engine.

Admittedly, locking gas caps are low-tech devices that can be defeated. But, it is our intent to make it very inconvenient for the casual thief, who, hopefully, will leave your vehicle alone in search of easier prey.

If you park your vehicle in an enclosed garage, you have no worries at home. However, anytime you leave your car in a parking area, while shopping, it is vulnerable to fuel loss.

There's lots of locking caps available, ranging from \$10 to \$25 each. I would recommend trying your dealership. The should have a cap designed especially for you vehicle — plus the quality should be better. It should, also, attach and remove similar to the one you



The above cap is a MoPar model to fill most Dodge, Plymouth and Chrysler minivans.



Gates, also, has a line of locking caps. No doubt a catalog near the display will match your vehicle.



Fram offers a line of locking caps. You'll have to find your vehicle in their catalog. Parts stores should have one near the display.

are replacing. You might even have the dealer help you replace it.

A second good reason for getting one at your dealers is because of another variable in caps — older ones are vented, while later models seal the fuel tank as part of the pollution control junk with which we're blessed.

Some non-locking caps are retained to the vehicle by a strap. It is seldom that



The cap above fits a series of Datsun vehicles.

the locking cap will attach to this strap. This means that you must place the cap somewhere while filling. DON'T place it on the pump or anywhere except inside your car. I put mine in my seat. When I sit on it, I am reminded that I forgot to replace it!

While not Fort Knox security, a locking gas cap is an inexpensive step in the right direction.