

## Why should I exchange my old gas can for a new, environmentally friendly one?

Traditional gas cans and the way we use them can harm WNC's air quality and our health. Spilled gas and gas vapors do not disappear; they eventually end up somewhere in the environment: in the water, in the soil, and in the air. Since gas contains many harmful pollutants, called volatile organic compounds (VOCs), any spilled gas or gas vapors place the harmful pollutants directly into the environment.

In the air, VOCs can react with nitrogen oxides (NOx) from industries and vehicles to form ground-level ozone when heat and sunlight are present. Ozone in the upper atmosphere is good and helps to filter out the sun's harmful rays, but ozone at ground-level is very harmful to our health and the environment. Ozone mainly affects the respiratory system by making it difficult to breathe. Children, and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma and emphysema, are more susceptible to the effects of ozone. Even the healthiest adults, however, can be affected by high levels of ozone, and prolonged exposure can result in lung damage. Ozone can also damage plants and crops and create hazy conditions that reduce visibility.

Using specially designed, environmentally friendly gas cans helps reduce the formation of ozone. This type of gas can:

- ◆ minimizes the release of VOC's
- ◆ reduces or prevents spills
- ◆ stops the flow of gas when the tank being filled is full
- ◆ closes automatically when not in use
- ◆ has air-tight seals that prevent vapors from seeping out during filling and storing
- ◆ is made from hard plastic materials that allow less gasoline vapors to escape
- ◆ is available on the internet or from home improvement stores
- ◆ comes in a variety of sizes that generally range from 1 gallon to 5 gallons
- ◆ has greater benefits to the air and the environment, and the savings from not spilling gas and having fewer escaping vapors add up quickly
- ◆ Improves indoor air quality by reducing emissions from cans stored in garages and crawl spaces

## Did you know?\*

Traditional gas cans emit about 8 pounds of VOCs through spills and evaporation each year.

Annually, traditional gas cans emit twice the amount of VOCs as a new can.

Little spills while gassing up lawnmowers, boats, and stranded automobiles put 9 million gallons of gas — the equivalent of a supertanker— into the ground and water each year.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that more than 40 million people use ground water that is contaminated by at least one VOC.

\* US EPA and the Alliance for Proper Gasoline Handling

## Clean Air Tips

- ◆ Soak up gas spills with kitty litter, saw dust, or absorbent towels. Remember to dispose of the contaminated materials properly.
- ◆ Refuel gas cans and equipment after 6pm, especially when ozone levels are high.
- ◆ Manufacturer's instructions must be followed to ensure that the maximum benefit is being achieved from spill-proof cans.
- ◆ Cars that are properly tuned run more efficiently and emit fewer pollutants into the air.
- ◆ Don't top off your gas tank; harmful fumes and vapors are emitted into the air.
- ◆ By keeping your tires properly inflated, you increase your gas mileage and reduce the need for refueling, which can release harmful fumes and vapors into the air we breathe.
- ◆ Use environmentally friendly gas cans to fill any engine usually filled by traditional gas cans.
- ◆ If an environmentally friendly gas can is not available, use a funnel to help prevent spills.



*[Non-spillproof gas cans account for about 87 tons a day of ozone-forming pollution. That's equal to the emissions from about 1 million cars.](#)*

## Recycling Tips!

Motor oil and gas need to be recycled properly.

Motor oil is accepted for recycling at most auto parts stores and at the Buncombe County Landfill

Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Gasoline is accepted for recycling at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Buncombe County Landfill

Fridays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
85 Panther Branch Road  
Alexander, NC 28701

[buncombecounty.org/solidwaste](http://buncombecounty.org/solidwaste)

## Other recycling options in Buncombe County:

Blue Bag Program

Transfer Station on Brevard Rd  
Drop-off Center behind  
Asheville Pizza & Brewing  
Drop-off Center at  
Curbside Management

For more information on Buncombe County's Recycling Program contact:

## Buncombe County Solid Waste

85 Panther Branch Road  
Alexander, NC 28701  
(828) 250-5462  
(828) 250-5460

[buncombecounty.org/solidwaste](http://buncombecounty.org/solidwaste)



For more information on ozone and reducing ozone pollution, contact:

## WNC Regional Air Quality Agency

49 Mt Carmel Rd  
Asheville, NC 28806  
Telephone: (828) 250-6777

[wncairquality.org](http://wncairquality.org)

Email: [wncair@buncombecounty.org](mailto:wncair@buncombecounty.org)

**REPLACE  
YOUR OLD  
GAS CAN**



**Use  
Environmentally  
Friendly  
Gas Cans  
to Improve  
WNC's Air Quality**