



These vapors are stored in the vapor canister until the engine is started. As soon as the engine is run above idle speed the engine vacuum purges the canister by drawing the vapors into the engine where they're burned as part of the air/fuel mixture.

Now that you know all this, you will better appreciate the important part... when you top off your gas tank, you are actually overfilling it. Overfilling the tank can also result in fuel spillage or spit back. Spit back can result in gasoline splashing on you, and both spillage and spit back cause wasted gasoline that evaporates, adding to total HC emissions in the atmosphere and contributing to smog formation.

Topping off and overfilling the tank can prevent the evaporative emission control system from working properly by forcing liquid fuel into the evaporative vapor lines and into the carbon canister. Any amount of liquid fuel will contaminate the activated charcoal and cause a loss in its ability to hold onto the vapor. Once the charcoal is contaminated from too much gasoline, the system is effectively ruined. Unless the canister is replaced, the vapor emissions into the atmosphere are greatly increased for the rest of the life of the car.

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