



Pumping own gas can save money

Today, over 30 per cent of motorists are pumping their own gasoline at one of 20,000 service stations across the United States that offer a self-service island.

"Pumping your own" can save you anywhere from two to six cents per gallon, depending on geographic area. For a typical 20 gallon tank, you can save up to \$1.20 on each fill-up. For any woman on a limited budget (and who isn't?), that kind of saving is a welcome relief from the rising cost of consumer products.

A recent Amoco Oil Co. survey showed that half the people who hesitated to pump their own gasoline were afraid of getting dirty.

To solve that problem, the firm is beginning to offer consumer aids to encourage its customers to take advantage of self-service. These aids, in use at many self-service islands, are designed to keep customers free of any gasoline smell.

One is a disposable, plastic mat that fits over all used hands and gloves, allows the customer to touch the handle, pump, and gas cap without getting gasoline on hands and clothing.

Also supplied is a flexible plastic cap that fits securely over the nozzle on the hose to prevent any excess gasoline from spilling out of the tank.

Self-service pumps are usually located in a separate island at full-service stations. These self-service islands continue to offer a wide range of services to the customer: service bays for repair work, oil, water and battery checks and an assortment of car care products.

Pumping your own gasoline can be as easy as filling a bucket with water from the garden hose.

Before beginning, shut off the car engine and extinguish all smoking materials.

The instructions are usually right on the pump. Typically, they are as follows:

Turn one lever to RESET and the other to ON. If there is only one lever on the pump, it turns to ON and automatically resets the gallon and dollar.

Lift the nozzle out of the cradle and place it into the gas tank as far as it will go.

Gently squeeze the inside handle of the nozzle and the gas will start to flow.

Several cents before you want to stop, slowly relieve the pressure on the inside handle until it stops at the proper amount.

For a fill-up, the flow of gasoline will automatically stop when the tank is full in most pumps.

Return the nozzle to the pump and put the gas cap back on.

Report the amount on the pump to the attendant. Occasionally, the amount is also recorded inside the station on a computer.

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It's really not very difficult to pump your own gasoline with aids like a disposable plastic mat and a shield to keep the fuel from spilling on your clothes.

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Volunteers

This column is listing volunteer needs in Oakland County as sponsored by the Junior League of Birmingham and the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau.

Inquiries regarding volunteer needs listed here should be made to the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau at 642-7272. Requests for volunteer listings also should be made through the volunteer bureau.

LIVING OPPORTUNITIES: Oakland Nursing Home, Farmington, welcomes volunteers to visit, take patients for walks or shopping in areas. Times: Tues. and Thurs. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Saturdays with those using physical handicapped adults. There is a special need in the area of arts and crafts.

THE SANCTUARY: in Pleasant Ridge would like to have volunteers 20 and older male and female. They would provide training for them to assist customers answer phones and handle drop-ins. Volunteers would interact with residents as well as initiate activities. A commitment of one-half day per week is requested.

ECONOMIC CRIME DIVISION: Oakland County Prosecutor's office needs volunteers as investigators. The time is flexible but a minimum of eight hours per week is asked. Training is provided by professional staff. Duties involve investigation of criminal cases with precise responsibilities varying with the nature of individual cases.

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