



Gas cans and plastic bed liners make for a potentially dangerous combination. Photo by Joel Jackson.

# Safety Alert!!

## Don't fill gas cans in pickup trucks with bed liners.

**Y**ou or your employees are at risk of serious injury or even death if you fill gas cans that are sitting in the bed of a pickup truck with a bed liner.

Chevron USA has reported several instances of metal cans exploding while being filled in the backs of pickup trucks at service stations. At least 23 injuries or deaths have resulted.

In a warning published in Chevron's Marketing Bulletin 36-1904, Chevron said that the insulating effect of the plastic liners found in the back of many pickup trucks prevents the static charge generated by gasoline flowing into a metal can from grounding.

As the charge builds, it can create a static spark between the can and the gas nozzle resulting in explosion or fire.

Although it has been suggested that placing a rubber mat under the can while it remains in the pickup bed may eliminate the danger, that may be ineffective. It is not recommended as a safety precaution.

Chevron USA advises workers to place cans on the ground, away from vehicles and people, when filling them to minimize the danger of fire and explosion.

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-Don McCommon, GCS  
Fairways G.C.

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