

Tips for Purchasing Gasoline

1. Make certain zero is indicated on the amount of gallons and the total purchase displays before initiating the dispenser.
2. To calculate total price, multiply the price per gallon by the amount of gallons.
3. Pump one gallon on a dispenser and check the price against the price per gallon advertised on the dispenser.
4. Identify and make note of the number assigned to the dispenser in case a problem should arise.
5. If purchasing fuel oil or gasoline in large quantities from a metered vehicle truck, watch the meter as fuel is pumped. Pumping fuel or gasoline from a metered vehicle truck works the same as a gasoline dispenser. Check to see that the meter is sealed by the Lucas County Weights and Measures Department. The seal should be visibly located and helps prevent meter tampering.
6. Make sure you receive a delivery ticket that clearly indicates:
 - The name and address of the vendor and buyer.
 - The date delivered.
 - The price and quantity delivered.
 - The product's identification.



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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Guidelines to ensure accurate purchases.



Information for
Lucas County Residents

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At Your Service

The Auditor is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices used commercially in Lucas County. This includes gas pumps, store scales, vehicle scales and bulk fuel tanker trucks.

The Auditor also checks scanners, advertising, packaging, and labeling of products such as meats, vegetables, firewood, mulch, and milk. This offers citizens protections from faulty measuring devices such as scales and pumps.

Weighing and measuring devices are mechanical instruments and subject to wear and tear and error. A malfunction on the packaging line may result in a package not being filled with the stated amount. For example, in the case of scanners, if the error rate exceeds 2 percent of the test sample, the items will be ordered off sale in addition to an immediate price correction.

If a device is inaccurate, inspectors may reject, condemn, or confiscate the device.

Weights and Measures saves the average household at least \$300 in overcharges per year. Weights and Measures protects both the buyer and seller in the marketplace.

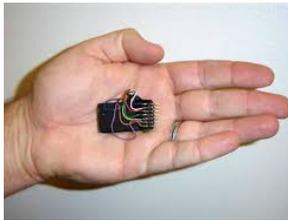
Consumer Tips

- When buying an item by count, such as prescription drugs, make sure the label states the amount.
- When buying firewood, request a receipt which includes the name and address of the vendor, as well as the delivery date, amount delivered, quantity upon which the price is based, and the total price of the amount delivered.

- When purchasing merchandise on a scale, net weight should not include the bag, wrapper, or container in which a commodity is weighed.
- Over the counter scales and quantity value indicators must be in plain view of the customer during transactions.
- Look for the current year Weights and Measures seals on all weighing and measuring devices.

What is a skimmer?

Skimmers are small, electronic devices illegally installed to steal credit/debit card information from consumers.



These tiny devices are wired to the card reader and/or keypad of a gas pump and record account numbers and PIN's when a customer

swipes their debit or credit card at the pump. An experienced thief can install one of these devices in less than a minute.

Data obtained by these devices can be used to create fake cards to access a consumer's bank account. Victims of these scams can have thousands of dollars withdrawn from their accounts without their knowledge.

Consumers purchase between 350 and 400 million gallons of gasoline per day. An estimated 700,000 gas pumps accept pay-at-the-pump and between 60 and 70 percent of gasoline purchases are made by credit card.

Thieves typically target gas stations/pumps close to interstates and highways, with poor surveillance, and have a universal key lock.



Protecting Against Skimmers

Weights and Measures staff are trained to look for anything suspicious when performing gas station/pump inspections.

- Never use a debit card when paying for gas at the pump. Thieves can steal PIN numbers. Use a credit card instead of a debit card. If using a debit card, choose to run it as a credit card instead of using a PIN number.
- Examine the card reader. Look for a false slot attached to the original card slot. It could be loose, fit poorly, stick out further or look newer than the machine.
- Try to use a pump close to the front of the store. Thieves often place skimmers at the pumps farthest from the store to avoid detection.
- Report any unusual activity or anything that looks out of place.
- Monitor monthly bank and credit card statements for fraudulent charges.
- Use cash to pay for purchases whenever possible.

If you believe you are a victim of a skimmer scam, notify local law enforcement, bank, and credit card issuers immediately. You may also contact the credit bureaus and file an online complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.