

“The crime of the future.”

Illegal debit/credit card skimmers have been found placed inside gas pumps in various parts of the country.

When a number of illegal skimmers were discovered at gas stations in central Florida, a local sheriff called gas pump skimmer scams, “the crime of the future.”

During a routine station inspection, Montgomery County Weights and Measures officials found credit card skimming devices illegally installed inside gas pumps at two separate greater Dayton area locations.

Gas station owners, managers, and attendants, as well as consumers, are advised to take steps to guard against these scams.

Don't be a victim of gas pump skimmer scams!



For more information or to report a gas pump problem, contact the Seneca County Auditor's Office, Weights and Measures Division at (419) 447-0692.

Or visit our website at www.senecacountyauditor.org



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The Crime of the Future?

Gas Pump Skimmer SCAMS



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Card Skimming Devices

Debit/Credit card skimmers are small, electronic devices that can be illegally installed inside a gas pump to steal card information from unsuspecting consumers.

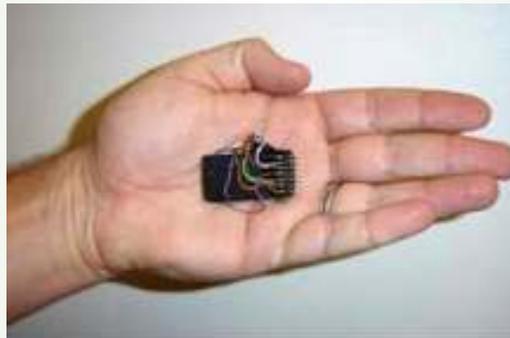
The devices are wired to the card reader and keypad and can record account numbers and PIN's when a customer swipes their debit or credit card at the pump. An experienced thief can install one of these devices in less than a minute.

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 Victims of these scams have been known to have thousands of dollars withdrawn from their accounts without their knowledge.



Preventing These Scams

Weights and measures staff train to look for anything suspicious when performing gas pump inspections. But, a periodic inspection by county officials only goes so far in preventing card skimming scams.



What More Can Be Done?

- Activity at gas stations should be closely and securely monitored by station managers and attendants.
- Gas pumps should be opened up and the internal mechanisms examined regularly by station staff.
- The most effective way to stop these scams is to install better, more secure locks on every pump. Better locks will prohibit unauthorized access to a gas pump's interior components.



What Can Consumers Do?

- NEVER use a debit card when paying for gas at the pump. Thieves can steal PIN numbers.
- 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 have been a victim of skimmer scam, notify local law enforcement, bank and credit card issuer immediately.