

STAY-SEALED FUEL CAP COVER



When I first purchased Aerobelle I was forced to store her outside because of a long waiting list for a hanger at my home airport. The first week she sat on the ramp it rained every single day and I wasn't able to take her up. I could just see the water pouring into the cabin because I did not even have a cover yet. I dreaded the coming day when the rain would stop enough so that I could get a chance to survey the damage caused by the torrential downpour. That day finally came and much to my surprise the cabin fared quite well with only a little bit of water standing on the floor on the co-pilots side. I guessed that it must have leaked around the notoriously famous leaky Piper door seals. I dried everything up and started my pre-flight inspection. Everything went well until I starting checking the tank sumps. My first sampling into the GATS jar made me think I had Jet A instead of Avgas since it was so clear. One whiff was all I needed to know that it was pure rainwater. I drained another two full jars of water before the Blue tinted 100 LL started showing and that was just on the right tank! I moved on to the left tank and thankfully only had to drain about one half of a jar of water out of it. I decided then and there that I needed to find a solution to the water problem. Every indication was that my wait might be as long as a year before I could move into a hanger so I was looking at a lot of ramp time between flights.

Several months later, I was looking on Aircraft Spruces website (a popular pastime for me) and accidentally discovered Stay-Sealed Aircraft Fuel Cap Covers. They looked like the perfect solution to my fuel contamination problem. I quickly ordered a set and the next day they arrived at my doorstep. As soon as I got them I took a quick run to the airport and installed them on Aerobelle. I had a little difficulty getting them to fit over the fuel caps the first time, but the main problem was that I wasn't pushing down properly on the cover. After I learned that I could press down hard in the center and then gently push the edges around the fuel cap things went smoother. Getting them off isn't too hard either. All I had to do was pull up on the metal ring and they would easily pop off. I was a little worried about them staying on, but I soon discovered that it would

probably take a full blown hurricane to tear them off the fuel cap. The true test came the very next week after I got them installed. We had another one of those summer Florida downpours. After it was all over with, I went to the airport again to check on Aerobelle. This time things were a lot different. I did not have even a drop of water in the GATS jar. It was great! I used these covers outside for almost a year with absolutely no water detected in my tanks since I first started using them. Even when I moved into the hanger, I keep them in the plane and use them every time I go out of town and tie down outside. They really deliver for me.

As with most all products they are not completely perfect. I have a couple of minor issues with them. Number one is that they fit so tight that over a period of time they started flaking the paint off my fuel caps around the edges. There is probably not much that could be done about it since the tight seal is a big selling point and it could be that the previous owner opted for cheap paint on the gas cap. Another complaint is that the "Remove before Flight" ribbon faded quickly in the North Florida sun and now is a little raggedy and a pale pink color. The deep red color on the caps has also faded into a very light red, but the caps still seal perfectly and are still flexible after more than a year of service. I could change the ribbons but the caps are so noticeable that I don't think I would forget them even without the ribbon. All in all this is a great product that I highly recommend even if you hanger your aircraft. There is always a time that you might be caught outside in the rain and the peace of mind that your fuel will be water free is worth every Penny of the purchase price. Stay-Sealed can be reached at www.staysealed.com.

Mike