

insider info.

In-Dash Cigarette Lighter Usage

Some Subaru owner's manuals state that the in-dash cigarette lighter cannot be used as an accessory power outlet. Fuji Heavy Industries included the statement in the manuals in the interest of customer safety.

If the in-dash lighter receptacle is ever used for a plug-in accessory such as a cellular phone, the portion of the receptacle's internal mechanism (bi-metal) that causes a cigarette lighter plug to 'pop out' after its lighter element is heated may be damaged. Placing a lighter plug in a receptacle that has been damaged by a plug-in accessory may cause the plug to stick and overheat, which may in some cases cause a fire in the receptacle that can spread to surrounding areas.

In the interest of customer satisfaction, Fuji Heavy Industries has agreed to change subsequent owner's manuals to allow the use of the in-dash receptacle as an accessory plug, but only if it is not also used as a cigarette lighter.

Note: The cigarette lighter receptacle can be used as a cigarette lighter or an accessory plug, but cannot be used as a cigarette lighter and an accessory plug. If the lighter socket is used even once for an accessory plug-in item, then it must never be used to operate the cigarette lighter element. The entire socket must be replaced with a genuine Subaru cigarette lighter element if the customer ever wants to use it as a cigarette lighter again.