

Use **LESS GAS**

with these

FUEL EFFICIENCY TIPS



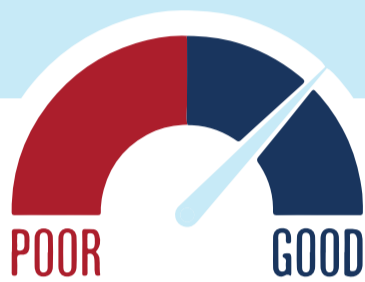
RECENT AND ONGOING INCREASES IN GASOLINE PRICES are top of mind for nearly everyone these days. Motorists are finding it challenging to cover the additional cost for fuel while some businesses are forced to pass along the expense to the consumer, raising prices for products and services.

While there seems to be little that can be done locally to address the upward trend felt across the U.S., motorists can take some simple steps to increase fuel efficiency and lessen the pain felt at the gas pump.

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS,

hot weather can actually increase fuel economy as engines warm up to an efficient temperature faster and warm air causes less aerodynamic drag than cold air. Unfortunately, keeping passengers comfortable in hot weather by rolling down the windows or using the air conditioning (AC) can reduce fuel economy.

To improve fuel economy during hot weather, try to roll the windows down at lower speeds and use the AC at highway speeds. Don't use the AC or set the temperature lower than needed. Also, drive



with the windows open for a short time before using the AC.

Letting hot air out of the vehicle first will put less demand on the AC and help it cool faster.

When possible, park in the shade or use a sunshade to minimize the heat inside the vehicle. Also, don't idle with the AC running before driving. Turn the AC on after you begin to drive or after airing out the vehicle briefly. Most AC systems will cool the vehicle faster while driving.



DRIVING TIPS

- Drive sensibly and avoid aggressive driving, such as speeding, rapid acceleration and hard braking. Aggressive driving can lower highway gas mileage by 15 percent to 30 percent and your city mileage by 10 percent to 40 percent.
- Avoid driving at high speeds as gas mileage drops rapidly.
- Reduce drag by placing items inside the car or trunk rather than on roof racks, which can decrease fuel economy by up to 8 percent in city driving and up to 25 percent at Interstate speeds.
- Avoid keeping heavy items in your car; an extra 100 pounds in the vehicle could increase gas costs by up to \$.03 cents per gallon.
- Combine errands. Several short trips can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- Minimize idling your car by turning off the engine when the vehicle is parked for more than 10 seconds. Idling can use a quarter to a half gallon of fuel per hour, depending on engine size and air conditioner use. In the winter, most manufacturers recommend driving off gently after about 30 seconds. The engine will warm up faster being driven, which will allow the heat to turn on sooner, decrease your fuel costs and reduce emissions.
- Turn off the engine when your vehicle is parked. It only takes about 10 seconds worth of fuel to restart your vehicle.
- Check into telecommuting, carpooling, public transit and active transportation like bicycling or walking to save on car maintenance and fuel costs.



MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Use the grade of motor oil your car's manufacturer recommends. Using a different grade of motor oil can lower your gas mileage by 1 percent to 2 percent.
- Inflate tires to the pressure listed in the owner's manual or on a sticker that is either in the glove box or driver's side door jamb. This number may differ from the maximum pressure listed on the tire's sidewall.
- Get regular maintenance checks to avoid fuel economy problems due to worn spark plugs, dragging brakes, sagging belts, low transmission fluid or transmission problems. Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve mileage by as much as 40 percent.
- Don't ignore the check-engine light — it can alert you to problems that affect fuel economy as well as more serious problems, even when your vehicle seems to be running fine.

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