

TOP 10 Fuel Saving Tips



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Here are some of the top gas saving tips that our readers have submitted to us, and also those proven to get the most out of your tank. These tips are easy to put into practise and won't cost you anything extra!

1

Don't turn your engine on and off needlessly. Calculate whether it makes more sense to turn off the vehicle or allow it to idle; idling your engine for one minute consumes the gas equivalent to switching off your engine and restarting. When driving an automatic ensure that the vehicle is in Neutral or Park when idling, this can save you 15 – 35% in fuel consumption. If you're driving a manual (stick shift), use the brake when idling keep you from rolling back, not the clutch. This will save fuel and extend the life of your clutch.

2

Use air conditioning wisely. When driving in the city (at lower speeds) is cheaper to use the vents and roll the windows down. However, at highway speeds, an air conditioner is more efficient. As you near your destination remember to shut off the A/C and thereby save fuel. By improving your A/C awareness you can improve your fuel efficiency by around 1 – 5%.

3

Clear off the snow and ice. During the winter months, snow and ice build-up can cost you a lot of gas. Clearing your vehicle of snow and ice will reduce wind resistance when driving and will reduce the weight of the vehicle.

4

Fill up your vehicle at the best times. Filling up in the morning when the fuel pump is cooler will get you a few extra cents of fuel as gas expands when it heats up. Additionally, always fill up your tank completely as frequent unnecessary trips to the gas station will cost you!

5

Maybe don't drive! Consider carpooling with friends. Share lifts to work, use public transport or request to work a couple of days from your home. Try walking to the corner shop or using your bicycle.



6

Always try to find a shady parking. This helps to keep your car cool and means that when you restart your car you will be able to save on air-conditioning as the car is not as hot as it would have been if parked in the sun. You will also make a small saving as the fuel tank, when it heats up, loses a small amount of fuel as it evaporates. Additionally consider tinting your windows, it's not expensive and will reduce the heat inside the car up to 50%.

7

Keep a log of your mileage and fuel. That's what we're here for! Monitoring your fuel economy and driving habits will allow you to measure the cost benefits of changing your driving style. You'll also be able to see which gas brands perform better.

8

Do not accelerate quickly. Accelerating at 1.4 throttle off the mark will be slower than you are used to, but it can save a lot of fuel. Whether you're driving an automatic or manual (stick shift) vehicle, slower acceleration will tend to shift up to higher gears at lower speeds, turning fewer engine revolutions (and thereby reducing your fuel consumption.)

9

Get the right tires. When it comes to replacing your tires make sure that you choose ones that will improve your fuel efficiency. Wide wheels and tires might look great, but they create more rolling resistance which decreases your fuel efficiency. You'll notice the difference on a long journey where the factory issue wheels will give you a smoother ride and better fuel economy.

10

Anticipate your next moves in the car. By anticipating you next move you can get into position without having to accelerate unnecessarily. Anticipating stops or slow-downs means that you can take your foot off the gas and coast rather than slamming on your brakes. This will improve your fuel consumption and extend the life of your brake-pads.

