

Ten Simple Ways to Save Gas Money and Help Reduce Air Pollution

- 1. Slow down.** Gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 50 miles per hour (mph). If you drive steadily at 75 rather than 65 mph, you'll use about 14% more gasoline per gallon, depending on your engine size—and that's about 27 cents worth!
- 2. Ease up on the gas and brake pedals.** Speeding, rapid acceleration, and excessive braking can lower gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent at lower speeds. On average, aggressive drivers waste about 65 cents out of every gallon on the highway and 10 cents per gallon on city streets.
- 3. Avoid using drive-thru lanes.** Idling a vehicle's engine for more than 30 seconds at restaurants, banks, pharmacies, and so on uses more gas than turning off your engine and restarting it. Idling can use a fourth to a half gallon of fuel per hour, depending on engine size and air conditioner (AC) use. Idling for just 5 minutes in a drive-thru lane wastes 5 to 10 cents in fuel.
- 4. Keep the junk out of your trunk.** An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle reduces fuel economy by 1 to 2 percent or 2 to 4 cents per gallon. (Smaller cars are affected more by excess weight.)
- 5. Don't load your car rack.** If you must use your vehicle to haul items, it's better to put them inside than on a roof rack. Due to aerodynamic drag, a loaded roof rack can decrease your fuel economy by 10-25 percent on the expressway, and cost you between 20 and 50 cents more per gallon.
- 6. Combine errands into one trip.** Several single, short trips taken with a cold engine can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- 7. Close your windows at higher speeds,** and turn on the air conditioning if you're hot. Unless you are driving under 35 mph, using the ac uses less fuel than opening your windows, due to aerodynamic drag.
- 8. Avoid traffic congestion.** You're burning fuel but going nowhere when your vehicle is stopped in heavy traffic, wasting 1 to 2 cents in gas every minute. To the extent possible, don't drive during peak rush hours and avoid heavy traffic areas caused by construction or special events.
- 9. Share the ride.** When you ride with just one other person who lives nearby, half the amount of gas otherwise used is saved. Between the two of you, that's like saving \$.99 on a gallon of gas that costs \$1.98. You may find a carpool partner at www.Nuride.com.
- 10. Walk or bike for trips of a mile or less.** According to a Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey, 25 percent of all trips are made within a mile of one's home. Why not walk or ride a bike? It costs nothing and is great exercise.

Source: US Department of Energy. For more information, visit <http://www.energy savers.gov/tips/transportation.cfm> and <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml>. Calculations of gas money spent are based on an assumed fuel cost of \$1.98 per gallon.

