



## Fuel Economy

### Tips to Increase Your Gas Mileage

- **Avoid unnecessary acceleration and aggressive driving** – Speeding up just to stop immediately after, like in bumper to bumper traffic, wastes a significant amount of gas.
- **Drive with the pack when possible** – The increased air movement around you will reduce drag on your vehicle
- **Use cruise control** – Avoids unnecessary acceleration and deceleration; use only on flat roads, hills make using cruise control less effective
- **Keep windows closed on the freeway** – Reduces drag on your vehicle and allow your vehicle to travel with less resistance from the air
- **Reduce A/C use** – Air conditioning uses a small amount of fuel to function
- **Remove excess weight** – Clean out that trunk, items you don't even use may be decreasing your gas mileage
- **Use correct engine oil** – Using a different grade of motor oil than the recommended may negatively affect your fuel economy
- **Brake only when you have to** – Braking causes your vehicle to lose the energy it gained when you hit the gas, which makes your vehicle expend more fuel to get moving again
- **Better roads = Better Mileage** – If you have the option to do so, take the smoother road. Rough roads increase friction on your wheels and reduce gas mileage.
- **Drive in warm weather** – Engines run better and more efficiently in warm weather than in cold weather
- **Don't let your car idle, turn it off** – Letting your car idle actually wastes more gas than turning it off and starting it up again. However, Ignore this rule in winter, a warmer engine is a better one.
- **Keep your tires properly inflated** - Allows for optimal rolling distance

### Commonly Ignored Mechanical Reasons for Reduced Gas Mileage

- **Loose or Missing Gas Cap (1-2mpg)** – Causes the gas in your tank to more readily evaporate
- **Bad Spark Plugs (1-2mpg)** – Reduces combustion efficiency in the engine
- **Bad O<sub>2</sub> Sensor (3mpg)** – Inhibits the ability of the engine to achieve the optimal fuel/air mixture needed for efficient combustion
- **Dirty Engine Oil (0.5mpg)** – Increases friction in the engine
- **Loose/Improperly Fitted Timing Belt** – Causes an inefficient fuel/air mixture in engine
- **Old Fuel Filter** – Can lead to fuel pump failure
- **Dirty Fuel Injectors** – Decreases the flow of gas into the engine.

### Sources



"Certifying the Automotive Professional"

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