

CAR FAQ'S

What can I do to increase my gas mileage?

Use Less Metal on the Pedal

If you drive aggressively (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) you are wasting gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town. Sensible driving is also safer for you and others, so you may save more than gas money.

- **Fuel Economy Benefit: 5-33%**
Equivalent Gas Savings: \$0.19-\$1.23/gallon

Observe the Speed Limit

While each vehicle reaches its optimal fuel economy at a different speed (or range of speeds), gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. As a rule of thumb, you can assume that each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like an additional \$0.20 per gallon for gas.

- **Fuel Economy Benefit: 7-23%**
Equivalent Gas Savings: \$0.26-\$0.86/gallon

Remove Excess Weight

Avoid keeping unnecessary items in your vehicle, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your MPG by up to 2%. The reduction is based the percentage of extra weight relative to the vehicle's weight and affects smaller

- **Fuel Economy Benefit: 1-2%/100 lbs**
Equivalent Gas Savings: \$0.04-\$0.07/gallon

Keep Your Engine Properly Tuned

Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4 percent, though results vary based on the kind of repair and how well it is done. Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve your mileage by as much as 40 percent.

- **Fuel Economy Benefit: 4%**
Equivalent Gas Savings: \$0.15/gallon

Tech Tip: Want to search for the lowest gas prices in your area?
Try these sites: www.californiagasprices.com & www.gasbuddy.com



Did You Know?

17% of the vehicles on the road have gas caps that are either damaged, loose or are missing altogether, causing 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year.

Only 14% of drivers properly check their tire pressure.

Nearly 70% don't know how to tell if their tires are bald.

45% wrongly believe that if taking a trip with a fully loaded vehicle that they're better off with tires that are slightly underinflated.

(From Car Care Council)

Did You Know?

A roof rack or carrier provides additional cargo space and may allow you to meet your needs with a smaller car. However, a loaded roof rack can decrease your fuel economy by 5 percent. Reduce aerodynamic drag and improve your fuel economy by placing items inside the trunk whenever possible.



Laugh all you want. I'm getting 30 miles to the gallon!

Combining errands into one trip saves you time and money. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm. Trip planning ensures that traveling is done when the engine is warmed-up and efficient.

Check & Replace Air Filters Regularly

Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent. Your car's air filter keeps impurities from damaging the inside of your engine. Not only will replacing a dirty air filter save gas, it will protect your engine.

- **Fuel Economy Benefit:** up to 10%
Equivalent Gas Savings: up to \$0.37/gallon

Keep Tires Properly Inflated

You can improve your gas mileage by around 3.3 percent by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every 1 psi drop in pressure of all four tires. Properly inflated tires are safer and last longer.

- Fuel Economy Benefit:** up to 3%
Equivalent Gas Savings: up to \$0.11/gallon

Use the Recommended Grade of Motor Oil

You can improve your gas mileage by 1-2 percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. For example, using 10W-30 motor oil in an engine designed to use 5W-30 can lower your gas mileage by 1-2 percent. Using 5W-30 in an engine designed for 5W-20 can lower your gas mileage by 1-1.5 percent. Also, look for motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives.

- **Fuel Economy Benefit:** 1-2%
Equivalent Gas Savings: \$0.04-\$0.07/gallon

Avoid Excessive Idling

At idle your car gets 0 miles per gallon. Cars with larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than do cars with smaller engines

Use Cruise Control

Using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, saves gas.

Use Overdrive Gears

This slows your car's engine speed down, saves gas and reduces engine wear.

Note: Cost savings are based on an assumed fuel price of \$3.72/gallon.

Data Sources: www.fueleconomy.gov

