

Office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier



CONSUMER GAS SAVINGS TIPS 12 Simple Steps You Can Take to Save Money at the Pump

Source: www.FuelEconomy.gov

- 1. Drive Sensibly:** Aggressive driving such as speeding, rapid acceleration and braking wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town. Fuel Economy Benefit: 5–33%. Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.19–\$1.25/gallon
- 2. Observe the Speed Limit:** Gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.24 per gallon. Fuel Economy Benefit: 7–23%. Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.27–\$0.87/gallon.
- 3. Remove Excess Weight:** Avoid keeping unnecessarily heavy items in your vehicle. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your MPG by up to 2 percent. Fuel Economy Benefit: 1–2%/100 lbs. Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.04–\$0.08/gallon.
- 4. Avoid Excessive Idling:** Idling gets 0 miles per gallon. Cars with larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than do cars with smaller engines.
- 5. Use Cruise Control:** Using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gas.
- 6. Use Overdrive Gears:** When you use overdrive gearing, your car's engine speed goes down. This saves gas and reduces engine wear.
- 7. 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. 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 Gasoline Savings: \$0.15/gallon.

- 8. Keep Your Tires Properly Inflated:** You can improve your gas mileage by up to 3.3 percent by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.3 percent for every 1 psi drop in pressure of all four tires. Fuel Economy Benefit: Up to 3%. Equivalent Gasoline Savings: Up to \$0.11/gallon.
- 9. 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. 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 Gasoline Savings: \$0.04–\$0.08/gallon.
- 10. Combine Trips:** 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, and it can reduce the distance you travel.
- 11. Commute Efficiently:** Stagger your work hours to avoid peak rush hours. Drive your most fuel-efficient vehicle. Consider telecommuting if your employer permits it. Take advantage of carpools and ride-share programs. You can cut your weekly fuel costs in half and save wear on your car if you take turns driving with other commuters. Finally, consider using public transit if it is available and convenient for you.
- 12. Travel Efficiently:** 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. Avoid carrying unneeded items, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds of weight in the trunk reduces a typical car's fuel economy by 1-2 percent.