

TOP 10 TIPS TO SAVE MONEY ON FUEL



WATCH THE PRESSURE

Correctly inflated tyres not only are safer and last longer, they also reduce road resistance which means greater fuel efficiency. Over time tyres naturally leak air so regular checks are important.

An under-inflated tyre can reduce fuel efficiency by as much as 20%.



SMOOTHLY DOES IT

Save money by adopting a smooth driving style – accelerating and braking gently will improve fuel consumption.

- Anticipate the road ahead and take your foot off the accelerator earlier giving your brakes less work to do.
- Leave sufficient distance between you and the car in front to give enough space to anticipate and react to traffic movements ahead.



PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

Plan the most efficient route making use of your sat nav (or a map) to avoid getting lost and driving further than necessary. Before you leave; check the traffic news to avoid any traffic black spots. If you are able to control your journey time try to avoid peak travel times.



LOSE WEIGHT

An empty car will use less fuel than one full of equipment. Every extra kg matters and will affect your fuel efficiency. Keep your boot clear of anything that you don't need for your journey.

Average increase in fuel consumption, when vehicle fully laden, is up to 7% more.



KEEP IN SHAPE

Keep your vehicle in good shape and follow your manufacturer's guide to service and maintenance. A poorly maintained car or van uses more fuel.



KNOW YOUR LIMITS

The faster you drive the more fuel you consume. Speed limits help to reduce your fuel consumption as well as maintain safety.

At motorway speeds a 15mph difference can use 17% more fuel.



OPEN UP

At low speeds it is more efficient to drive with the windows open than use your air conditioning. Save your air-conditioning for speeds of 60mph and above, when the effects are less noticeable.



TURN IT OFF

In addition to your air conditioning; all electrical loads can put a strain on your engine and burn more fuel. If they are not needed switch off heated windscreens, demisters and headlights.



STAY STREAMLINED

Roof-racks and boxes add wind resistance and increase fuel consumption. If you're not using it, take it off. If you do need to transport bulky items, pack carefully to reduce drag and consider using a trailer.



MAKE THE CHANGE

Change to a higher gear as soon as possible to save your engine from labouring. Watch your gear shift indicator and change up at the most efficient points. You should change up a gear at around 2,000 RPM.



TO IDLE OR NOT TO IDLE

Many cars now have automatic stop start systems that switch off the engine when you stop. They have several important features that ensure this process is efficient and may be configured not to turn off in certain conditions. However if you do not have this technology on your car as a general rule:

- For a warm car on a warm day in daylight conditions turning the engine off for a wait of 1 minute or more will probably save fuel.
- For a cold engine in cold weather or with additional electrical loads the stationary period needs to be longer to see a benefit.

However, if you have a diesel engine it should not be turned off during Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) regeneration (as indicated by a dashboard warning light). Failed DPF regenerations causes oil dilution and blocked DPFs which can lead to costly repairs and time off the road.

SOURCE:

www.rac.co.uk/pdfs/business/dpf.pdf

SOURCE:

- www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/transport/driving-advice
- www.michelin.co.uk/tyres/learn-share/care-guide/guide-for-tyre-pressure
- www.theaa.com/driving-advice/fuels-environment/drive-smart



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