

10 Simple Ways to Save Gas (and Money!)

Introduction

First off, thank you for visiting Daily Fuel Economy Tip and for subscribing to the newsletter. I hope that you come back to the site frequently and find the newsletter to be a good source for gas saving tips as well as commentary on gasoline prices.

It's very easy to see significant improvement in your car's gas mileage if you're willing to put in a little bit of effort and change your current habits slightly. If you were to follow just a few of the recommendations below, it's realistic to expect your gas mileage to increase by 10%, and if you followed all of these steps, you might see your gas mileage increase by 20% or more!

If you're paying \$30 or \$40 every time you fill up, you could save several hundred dollars per year by trying to get the best gas mileage out of your current vehicle. Given the current economic situation, I think we could all stand to have a couple hundred extra dollars in our bank account!

So without further ado, here are 10 Simple Ways to Save Gas (and Money!):

1) Don't Drive if You Don't Have To:

Getting better fuel economy and saving gas is pretty common sense, so it's no wonder that I'm leading off this book with the most common sense tip of all: **if you're not driving you're not using and wasting gas.**

Before you hop in your car to head out to the store to pick up a couple small things, ask yourself if you really need to be driving. Can you walk or ride a bike? If that's not possible, can you take some form of mass transit? Do you even need to be going out at all? Maybe you're just bored!

2) Combine All of Your Small Trips

Instead of taking a bunch of back and forth trips from home to the grocery store back to home to the mall back to home to pick up little Johnny from soccer practice, take just a little bit of time and plan your trips out.

10 Simple Ways to Save Gas (and Money!)

In the scenario just mentioned, maybe you can run to the mall, go pick up little Johnny, swing by the grocery store and then head on home. By doing this you're saving yourself two unnecessary trips back home. Less wasted driving means less wasted gas and money.

You're still getting everything done AND you're saving gas. Now that's a win/win scenario if I've ever heard of one!

3) Use Moderate Acceleration

When you're sitting at a stoplight and the light turns green, make sure you remind yourself that you're on a public road and not a drag strip. Slamming the accelerator to the floor not only puts extra wear and tear on your car's engine, but it ruins your car's gas mileage.

Instead of putting the pedal to the metal and burning rubber, use a moderate, steady acceleration until you get up to the regular speed. While you might annoy Mr. Road Rage behind you, you can drive down the road with your head held high knowing you're doing your part for the environment and your bank account!

4) Be a Smooth Driver

In taking the moderate acceleration tip a step further, once you get your car up to traveling speed, make sure that you're being a smooth and steady driver. That means giving plenty of space between you and other cars so that you're not constantly tapping on the brakes and then having to re-accelerate.

By being a jackrabbit driver, all you're doing is needlessly wasting energy, which means a significant drop in gas mileage.

5) Drive the Speed Limit

According to FuelEconomy.gov, for every 5 MPH you drive over 60 MPH you're reducing your car's gas mileage by an additional 10%. That's a pretty staggering statistic.

While each car has their own unique speed at which gas mileage is optimized, there's no denying that the faster you go – especially at highway speeds – the more gas you're going to consume.

10 Simple Ways to Save Gas (and Money!)

6) Maintain Proper Tire Pressure

According to FuelEconomy.gov, driving around with underinflated tires will reduce your car's gas mileage by up to 3% due to the fact the car has to "work harder" to maintain speed.

Think back to when you were a kid riding your bike around the neighborhood. Remember how much harder you had to pedal when your tires were kind of flat, and how much easier it was to ride your bike once you were able to get them back to normal? Your car is the same way.

In addition to helping you achieve peak gas mileage, properly inflated tires are much safer and tend to last longer.

7) Keep Your Car Properly Maintained

Performing simple maintenance on your car is a great way to keep it running in peak condition for a long time. And, to no surprise, when a car is running its best, it tends to get much better gas mileage.

For example, replacing a dirty and clogged air filter can increase your car's gas mileage by up to 10%. After 10 fill ups the new air filter has already paid for itself!

Additionally, keeping up with your scheduled oil and fluid changes will also help you maintain the best gas mileage possible for your vehicle.

8) Lose the Extra Weight

As a general rule of thumb, for every extra 100 pounds you carry around in your car, you decrease the vehicle's gas mileage by 1%.

So stop keeping the golf clubs in the trunk of the car because "you never know when you might feel like playing." Same thing goes for other sports equipment, unused child safety seats, half-empty bottles of water, empty rooftop carriers, etc.

Basically if you don't need it in the car right that very second, go ahead and take it out.

9) Don't Sit and Idle

Here's the biggest no-brainer gas saving tip of all – **when you're car is running but you're not moving, your gas mileage drops to 0 MPG.**

10 Simple Ways to Save Gas (and Money!)

Avoiding places where your car is just going to sit and idle is without a doubt the single best way to improve your gas mileage. This means avoiding drive-thrus, keeping the car running while you load up the kids at the bus stop and (most importantly) staying as far away from rush hour as possible.

I know rush hour is unavoidable for most of us, however, there are some things you can do to lessen its impact:

- Leave for work 15 minutes earlier. It won't have much of an impact on your life, but even just a slight shift in your commute time can keep you out of the heaviest traffic flows.
- Can you ride the bus or take the subway? While it might not be ideal, it's always nice to have someone else do the driving.
- Do you live close to a few co-workers? Why not start a carpool?

10) Stay as Aerodynamic as Possible

The more aerodynamic your car is the less amount of drag the car will have to overcome to get up to and maintain speed. Not surprisingly, the less drag your car has to overcome, the better its gas mileage is going to be.

You can easily improve your car's aerodynamics by driving with the windows up and the sunroof closed, as well as taking down rooftop carriers, bike racks, team flags, etc.

Conclusion

Thanks for taking the time to read through this ebook. I hope that it gave you a little more insight as to how you might be able to improve your car's gas mileage and ultimately save you hundreds of dollars! Feel free to print out a copy of this and leave it in the car as a friendly reminder to watch your speed, keep the tires inflated and take the golf clubs out of the trunk.

Also, please continue to visit Daily Fuel Economy Tip for even more tips on ways you can save gas, as well as commentary on gasoline prices.