

Ways to Maximize Fuel Economy

Here are a few tips to keep in mind if you're going to be doing the driving:

Keep tire pressure in check

Use an accurate tire gauge to set pressures to the recommended levels listed on the driver's door-jamb of your vehicle. These are recommended cold inflation values for the best compromise for ride quality, steering feel, handling and fuel economy. When replacing tires, always go with original equipment tires as they are designed for the car and for the lowest rolling resistance.

Use the correct engine oil

A higher viscosity oil increases internal drag.

Accelerate moderately and smoothly

Hard acceleration burns a lot of fuel. Very slow acceleration can also increase fuel consumption. Moderate acceleration gives the best fuel economy performance. If the vehicle is a standard shift, you can boost your economy by shifting as early as possible. If the vehicle has sequential sport shift, leave the shifter in "D".

Avoid stop and go traffic

Anticipate traffic signals to keep the vehicle's momentum going. Avoid unnecessary starts and stops. Hugging the bumper of the car in front of you forces you to make the same stops and starts...Don't tailgate! Use the cruise control as much as possible to keep your speed consistent.

Minimize braking

Every time you brake, you have to accelerate again and that uses fuel. When decelerating, take your foot off the gas pedal and use light braking.

Use A/C and defroster sparingly

The engine works harder when the A/C is running and that reduces your fuel mileage. Same goes for your defroster. Set your climate control to the warmest temperature or coolest temperature that is still comfortable.

Reduce extra equipment and speed

Aerodynamic drag has an effect on fuel economy at speeds above 45 mph. Trailers, car-top carriers, roof racks and bike racks are also big drag contributors.

Reduce vehicle weight

Unnecessary items in the vehicle add weight, which makes the engine work harder. Remove the stuff you don't need from the passenger area, trunk and cargo area.

Avoid short trips if possible

The engine uses fuel to warm-up and get to a normal operating temperature. The shorter the trip, the less efficient your vehicle. Combine errands to minimize extra starting cycles.

