

# 9 fuel saving tips every driver should know

You have no control over the price at the pump. But what you *can* control is how you drive and maintain your vehicle to increase fuel efficiency. Here are some tips from [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov) to implement and start saving today:



## Don't be aggressive

Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by roughly 15% to 30% at highway speeds and 10% to 40% in stop-and-go traffic. Sensible driving is also safer for you and others, so you may save more than gas money.

**Gas savings: \$0.29–\$1.15/gallon**

01



## Tune up your engine

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

**Gas savings: \$0.11/gallon**

06



## Obey the speed limit

Gas mileage usually decreases fast at speeds higher than 50 mph. You can assume that each 5 mph you drive over 50 mph is like paying an additional \$0.20 per gallon for gas. Added bonus: observing the speed limit is safer.

**Gas savings: \$0.20–\$0.40/gallon (at \$2.87/gallon)**

02



## Keep tires inflated properly

You can improve gas mileage by 0.6% on average—up to 3%—by keeping tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by about 0.2% for every 1 psi drop in the average pressure of all tires. For proper tire pressure for your vehicle, check your driver's side door jamb or the owner's manual.

**Gas savings: \$0.02/gallon**

07



## Avoid heavy hauls on your roof

Cargo on your roof increases wind resistance. This lowers fuel economy by about 2% to 8% city driving, 6% to 17% on the highway, and 10% to 25% at Interstate speeds (65-75 mph). If you need to use a cargo container, removing it when it's not in use will save fuel and money.

**Gas savings: \$0.06–\$0.49/gallon**

03



## Use the right motor oil

You can improve gas mileage by 1% to 2% 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% to 2%.

**Gas savings: \$0.03–\$0.06/gallon**

08



## Get rid of your extra baggage

Avoid keeping unnecessary items in your vehicle, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle can reduce your MPG by about 1%. The reduction is based on the percentage of extra weight relative to the vehicle's weight and affects smaller vehicles more than larger ones.

**Gas savings: \$0.03/gallon**

04



## Windows or AC? That is the question

Using windows or AC to cool your vehicle in the summer has been an ongoing argument. But the answer has finally come out: there is a time and place for each.

Running your car's AC is the main contributor to reduced fuel economy in hot weather. Its effect depends on several factors, such as the outside temperature, humidity and intensity of the sun. Under very hot conditions, **AC use can reduce a vehicle's fuel economy by more than 25%, particularly on short trips. So, limit its use to highway speeds.**

However, driving with your windows down can also reduce fuel economy. Open windows increase aerodynamic drag (wind resistance), making your vehicle use more energy to push through the air. So, **only roll the windows down at lower speeds.**

09



## Don't sit idly by

Idling can use a quarter to a half gallon of fuel per hour, depending on engine size and AC use. It's simple – turn off your engine when your vehicle is parked. It only takes about 10 seconds worth of fuel to restart your vehicle.

**Gas savings: \$0.01–\$0.02/min. (AC off); \$0.02–\$0.03/min. (AC on)**

05