

DRIVE GREEN

A GUIDELINE FOR RECREATIONAL AND TRANSPORT MOTORISTS



Your choice of vehicle is just the first step in reducing the environmental impacts of automobile usage, but how you drive and how well you maintain your vehicle will also make a difference.

- Avoid "racing" starts and aggressive driving. Flooring the acceleration pedal not only wastes fuel, it leads to drastically higher pollution rates.
- Drive more smoothly, avoid heavy breaking or accelerating and coast to a stop in order to improve your vehicle's fuel efficiency. Avoid idling by shutting off the engine for prolonged waits (for the kids at school or at a train crossing).
- Think ahead. Try to anticipate stops and let your vehicle coast down as much as possible. Avoid the increased pollution, wasted fuel, and wear on your brakes created by accelerating hard and braking hard.
- Follow the speed limit! Ease up on the pedal. Slowing down from 120 to 110 km/h will drop your highway fuel consumption by about 10%. That's money in your pocket.
- When possible, plan your trips to avoid rush hour. Stop-and-go driving burns fuel and increases emissions of smog-forming pollutants.
- Combine trips. Warmed-up engines and catalysts generate much less air pollution, so combining several short trips into one can make a big difference.
- Take a load off. Carrying unnecessary extra weight increases fuel consumption. Take a few moments to unload your cargo. Remove roof racks whenever possible as they can create significant drag.
- Use overdrive gear at cruising speeds. When driving a manual transmission, shift up as soon as possible. Running in a higher gear decreases the rpm and will decrease fuel use and engine wear.
- Try using the vents and opening windows to cool off before you turn on the air conditioner. Air conditioner use increases fuel consumption, increases NOx and other noxious emissions and fluids in some vehicles.
- Unlike many older cars and trucks, modern vehicles don't need to warm up and they have automatic chokes, so you don't need to step on the gas pedal before starting the engine.

Green Maintenance Tips

- Keep your tires properly inflated. Tires should be inflated to the pressure recommended for your vehicle. For every 3 pounds below recommended pressure, fuel economy goes down by about 1%. Tires can lose about 1 pound of pressure in a month, so check the air pressure

regularly and always before going on a long trip or carrying heavy loads. Underinflated tires can also detract from handling, safety, and how long the tires will last.

- Buy low-rolling-resistance (LRR) replacement tires. Switching to a typical set of replacement tires lowers a vehicle's fuel economy as much as 4%. LRR tires, on the other hand, are specially designed to improve a vehicle's fuel economy. Most major tire manufacturers now produce LRR models, so when it comes time to replace your tires, seek out a set of LRRs.
- Check your own fuel economy every few weeks. If you notice it slipping, that could mean you have a minor problem with the engine or your brakes. Using this advance warning, you can fix problems before you have a breakdown on the road.
- Get a tune-up. A tune-up can increase your fuel economy. Follow owner's manual guidelines. Be sure to check for worn spark plugs, dragging brakes, and low transmission fluid; have your wheels aligned and tires rotated; replace the air filter if needed. Make sure all used vehicle fluids are recycled or disposed of safely.
- Change the oil. In addition to making your car or truck last longer, replacing the oil and oil filter regularly will also help fuel economy. Check your owner's manual for specific recommendations about how often to change. Ask the service station if they recycle used oil, or if you do it yourself, take your old oil to someplace that does recycle. Ask for recycled oil as a replacement.

Green Fuelling Tips

- Petrol fumes are toxic and carcinogenic; they cause smog and spilled fuel can pollute the water and poison wildlife. And it's very flammable, too.
- Don't overfill the fuel tank or try to top it off beyond where the automatic nozzle clicks off. Spilled petrol evaporates to aggravate smog formation and can leak into groundwater.

Green Parking Tips

- Park in the shade in summer to keep your car cool and minimize evaporation of fuel.
- If you have a garage, use it as much as possible to keep your car warm in winter and cool in summer.
- If you have to park outdoors, windshield shades can cut down on summer heat and help keep the frost off in the winter.

Source: www.greencars.org

