

Using Less Gasoline



Information on How to Save Money at the Gas Pump

Butler County
Department of
Recycling &
Waste Management

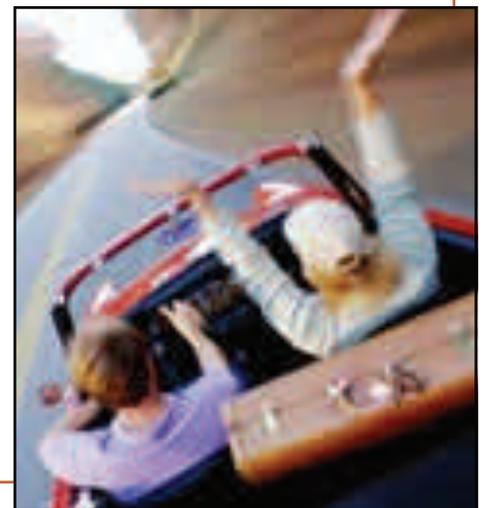
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How would you like to improve your fuel economy by **30% or more** without buying a new vehicle? Here are some tips that can help:



1. Brake sparingly and **coast up to red lights**. Timed correctly, you'll hit the green while still moving forward and expend less fuel accelerating again. Commuters can learn the timing of traffic lights very easily in a just a few days.
2. **Accelerate slowly** when pulling away. Jackrabbit starts do absolutely nothing more than waste gas and usually get you no further ahead than anyone else!
3. Set the **cruise control** to the speed limit as much as possible. By reducing the speed at which air hits your vehicle (which in essence makes the vehicle work harder), you save gas.
4. **Remove all excess weight** from the vehicle. For every 30 pounds of extra weight your vehicle carries, mpg decreases by anywhere from one-tenth to one-hundredth of a percent. Don't fill up the gas tank every time, especially if you have a large vehicle with a large tank. Carrying a full tank of gas is like paying oil companies to carry around their product for them! This may not seem like much, but it all adds up!
5. **Reduce as much "drag" as possible**. If there's something that can be taken off the car without compromising its operation or aesthetics (like roof racks that aren't being used), get rid of it. Driving with open windows is generally held to be better than using the air conditioning, but closed windows and no A/C are best when feasible.
6. Keep **tires fully inflated** to their



maximum allowable pressure, a specification you'll find printed on the outside of the tire. Higher pressure means less rolling resistance, allowing you to coast a greater distance.

7. **Reduce idle time** as much as possible. Cars of recent vintage have fuel-injection systems that make starting an engine more efficient than idling. So, if the line at the fast food restaurant is long, park the car and go in to buy your food if you can!

8. When you're driving up a hill, **keep a steady load on the engine**. Accelerate to a target speed and then lock your foot in position so the gas pedal is held steady. That will keep gas consumption at a constant level.

9. **Avoid the big chill**. Today's cars can't kick into their most efficient mode -- called "closed-loop operation" -- until the engine is sufficiently warm. There are ways to speed the process even if you don't want to invest in an engine-block heater. If you're on a round of errands, for example, always go the farthest destination first to bring up the engine temperature. If you make a series of short trips, the engine stays cold and never achieves maximum efficiency.



LOWEST GAS PRICES

Now that you are operating your vehicle as efficiently as possible, find the gas stations with the lowest prices:

www.fueleconomy.gov



More Information on Fuel Efficiency:

Useful web sites with much more information on improving fuel economy:

www.fueleconomy.gov

www.cleanmpg.com

www.ecodrive.org

www.greenmpg.com

www.hypermilng.com

www.ecomodder.com (a site for modifying cars to boost mileage)

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