

Vehicle Fuel Saving: you can do it...

A little advance planning, a less-aggressive driving style and a well-maintained vehicle can help you get the most out of every liter of fuel.

No matter where you live and what you drive, you can maximize every drop of fuel. Here's how:

Regular Servicing the vehicle is important. Keep your vehicle well maintained with regular servicing to keep it operating at peak efficiency. An inefficient engine—with faulty spark plugs, for example—won't make optimum use of fuel. Clean the air filter and the fuel filter regularly. Replace the filters at the recommended intervals.

Don't forget little things like the air pressure in the tires. Having tires inflated to the automaker's maximum recommended pressure can improve fuel mileage by as much as 6%, while periodic wheel alignments can help improve fuel economy up to 10 percent, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Clean out that trunk, cargo area or pickup bed. Take out unneeded items that only add weight to your vehicle. Extra weight decreases fuel mileage.

#### *Be a Different Driver*

Change your driving style. Accelerate gradually, drive smoothly and with care and you could see as much as a 20 percent gain in fuel economy compared with what you'd get with an aggressive driving style. Skip those quick starts and go and sudden pedal-to-the-floor maneuvers if you want to save fuel. Anticipate stops so you avoid sudden braking, and take a long view of the road ahead, moving safely to an intersection in front of you where you see traffic stopped.

#### *Drive Smart*

Don't let your vehicle idle as you wait outside the school to pick up your children. Idling uses more fuel than turning the engine off and waiting for your youngsters and then restarting the engine.

#### *Minimise the use vehicle Air Conditioning System*

When you're in slow city traffic, keep the air conditioner off, if possible. Roll down the windows and open the air vents to keep you and the passengers comfortable. That air conditioner is a burden that uses fuel, and if you're moving around town, you can see an improvement in mileage by keeping it turned off.

#### *Plan Ahead*

Combine your everyday jobs into one trip, rather than taking multiple trips from home. Organize your stops so they're near each other and so you don't go back over your path again.

If you plan well, you may even be able to park in one central spot and walk between some of your stops rather than driving and parking at each one. For large gatherings like marriage functions, family reunions and other public functions, organize a carpool. If the distance to these events is long, renting a 15-seater mini bus or van to maximize fuel savings vs. driving a number of separate vehicles in these circumstances.

Plan your trips so you go out during less congested times of the day. When there's less traffic, you're more apt to be able to drive smoothly.

When you're headed to a new or unfamiliar location, use navigation aids on the Internet or maps in your vehicle to keep from getting lost and thus wasting fuel.

#### *Weather Effects*

Note that road and weather conditions have a role, too, in the fuel economy of your vehicle. Driving into a 32 kmph headwind can reduce fuel economy by as much as 6 percent. Driving up a mountain

road with a 7 percent grade can cut fuel economy by as much as 25 percent. Driving on gravel and in mud requires more fuel.

### *Other Modes of Transport*

Look at alternative transportation option even if it's just for one or two days a week. Walk, bicycle, carpool or take public transportation and leave your vehicle at home. Cycling not only saves on fuel, it is an excellent cardiovascular exercise. And in some cases, commuters actually arrive at their destination quicker on a bicycle than they would via congested roadways.

### *Big is bad for fuel economy*

When you plan to buy a new vehicle, compare fuel economy. Bear in mind that bigger vehicles, bigger engines, four-wheel drive and lots of optional equipment can add to a vehicle's weight results in reduction of fuel efficiency.

Larger tires can have an effect as it has a larger "footprint" on the road that doesn't have a special rubber compound designed to improve fuel economy has more rolling resistance than a comparable smaller tire, and this can lower fuel economy.

### *Remove unnecessary items from the vehicle.*

Remove any unnecessary weight and roof racks from the car when you're not using them

Remove vinyl tops - they cause air drag. Rough surfaces disturb otherwise smooth air flow around a car's body. Bear in mind when buying new cars that a fancy sun roof disturbs the smooth air flow and causes additional fuel use.

Share your journeys with other people where possible.

### *Cold starts*

If you make a cold start, don't sit around idling to heat up the engine. Move off slowly as soon as you can and stay light on the accelerator until the engine has warmed up.

Be sure the automatic choke is disengaged after engine warm up. Chokes often get stuck, resulting in bad fuel/air mixture thereby wasting fuel.

Accelerate slowly when starting from dead stop.

Drive smoothly and consistently using higher gears.

Shutting all the windows will make your car more aerodynamic.

Don't over speed.

Look ahead of three or more cars. If they're turning or slowing, ease off early rather than waiting and braking suddenly.

Don't follow closely to the vehicle in front. You have to brake harder to avoid hitting the vehicle in front, lose momentum and have to accelerate harder to regain the original speed. A careful speed keeps fuel consumption more constant.

Avoid rough roads whenever possible, because dirt or gravel robs you of up to 30% of mileage.

Traffic lights are usually timed for your motoring advantage. By traveling steadily at the speed limit you boost your chances of having the "green light" all the way.

Park your car so that you can later begin to travel in forward gear; avoid reverse gear maneuvers to save fuel.

Make sure the fuel tank cap fits tightly and buy a new one if it does not fit tightly. Petrol can easily evaporate if the cap is not airtight

If buying a new car, consider a diesel engine instead of petrol for better prices and consumption.

If buying a new car, buy a cleaner one (for example petrol-electric hybrid or LPG).

### Top 10 Tips for Safe Fuel-Efficient Driving

Here are 10 great driving tips to share with your family and friends.

1. Don't drive aggressively – quick starts, quick/hard stops and aggressive driving can increase fuel consumption by up to 37%.
2. Drive at the normal speed limit – increasing the vehicle speed from 100 km/h to 120 km/h will increase fuel consumption by about 20%.
3. Don't idle – when you let your vehicle idle longer than 10 seconds, it burns more fuel than restarting the engine.
4. Drive only when you need to – leave the vehicle at home whenever possible by walking, biking, carpooling or taking the bus to nearby locations.
5. Plan ahead – If you have to drive, plan the most fuel-efficient route in advance.
6. Use the vehicle's air conditioner sparingly – using the air conditioner in stop-and-go traffic can increase fuel consumption by as much as 20%.
7. Check the inflation level of the tires twice a month. A single tire under-inflated by just 56 kPa (8psi) can increase the vehicle's fuel consumption by 4%.
8. Use fifth gear or cruise control (if available) – on dry, flat wide-open highways, this helps to improve fuel efficiency by maintaining an even speed.
9. Maintain the vehicle properly – a poorly maintained vehicle consumes more fuel, produces higher levels of emissions, requires expensive repairs, and has a low resale value.
10. Safe driving is fuel-efficient and environment friendly driving.

### Twelve Tips for How to Stretch a Tank of fuel

Simple Solution:

Here are 12 more tips for how to stretch a tank of fuel.

- \* You can easily take care of a few items without going to a service station. One of them is the air filter. A clogged air filter leaves your engine gasping for breath and means you're probably running with a "rich" mixture, that is, more fuel and less air. Air filters are simple to clean and change. A clogged air filter can cost you .5 to 1 km/Litre. Replace air filter regularly.
- \* Dirty oil reduces engine efficiency, so make sure oil is changed according to the car manufacturer's recommended schedule.
- \* If the vehicle's fan belt is too tight, the engine is working too hard and wasting fuel. The belt should give a little to finger pressure when the engine is not running. If it doesn't, you can easily adjust the tension with a wrench.
- \* Badly worn spark plugs can cost you much fuel.
- \* Heavier cars are more costly to run. A reduction of 100kg in automotive weight typically improves fuel economy by nearly 5 percent.
- \* Use the air conditioner in your car as little as possible. It uses a lot of fuel. Roll down the windows and get some fresh air!
- \* Don't let your car idle for a long time to warm it up. Also, don't let your car idle for more than a minute after it is warmed up - this idling wastes more fuel than restarting your car.
- \* Do not rev the engine and then quickly shut your car off. This wastes fuel. It also pumps raw fuel into the cylinder walls. This can wash away a film of oil that protects the cylinders and will increase engine wear.
- \* Check the tires. Your vehicle's owner's manual has important information on tires, including the correct air pressure that should be in them. Radial tires have 50 percent less road resistance, so they give you 3 to 19 percent better mileage.