

# TOP 10 FUEL SAVING TIPS

With current gas prices, driving any distance can be expensive. In addition, Executive Order 13423 directs agencies to conserve resources and reduce emissions. According to the fuel efficiency experts at the U.S. Department of Energy, by simply changing driving your habits you can significantly increase your fuel economy. Below are a few tips for you to follow that can conserve fuel and save money at the gas pump, while at the same time helping the environment and improving traffic safety.

1. **Slow down** – Drive 55 miles per hour instead of 65 and save fuel. EPA estimates a 10-15 percent improvement in fuel economy by slowing down.
2. **Use cruise control** – Using cruise control when possible on the highway to maintain a constant speed helps save fuel. Pumping the accelerator sends more fuel into the engine.
3. **Accelerate and brake smoothly** – Accelerating smoothly from a stop and braking softly conserves fuel. Fast starts, weaving in and out of traffic, and hard braking wastes fuel. The type of driving also wears out car components, such as brakes and tires more quickly which reduces fuel efficiency. Maintaining a safe distance between vehicles allows more time to brake and accelerate gradually.
4. **Avoid idling** – Today's engines don't need to warm up before you drive. Start the car immediately and gently drive away. Prolonged idling increases emissions and wastes fuel.
5. **Check your tires** – Keep tires properly inflated to the recommended tire pressure. This alone can reduce the average amount of fuel use by 3-4 percent. Under-inflated tires increase rolling resistance and reduce fuel economy. They also wear more rapidly.
6. **Travel lightly** – Remove excess weight, such as unnecessary items in the trunk. Carrying extra weight makes the engine work harder thus consuming more fuel.
7. **Keep your vehicle tuned** – Maintain proper engine tune-up to keep vehicles running efficiently. Repairing a car that is noticeably out of tune can improve its mileage by an average of 4 percent. Repairing a serious maintenance problem like a faulty oxygen sensor can improve mileage by as much as 40 percent. Always consult the GSA Fleet Maintenance Control Center (866-400-0411) and the vehicle's Owner's Manual for proper maintenance.
8. **Minimize air conditioning use**– Use the air conditioning only when necessary to reduce the load on the engine. Decreasing your use of the air conditioning when temperatures are above 80 degrees can help save 10-15 percent of fuel. Use the vent setting as much as possible and park in the shade to keep the car cool.
9. **Close windows at high speeds** – Don't drive with the windows open while driving over 50 mph. Driving with the windows open at highways speeds, increases drag on the vehicle and lowers fuel economy.
10. **Consolidate trips** – Plan ahead to minimize travel time. This will enable you to bypass congested routes, lead to less idling, fewer start-ups, and less stop-and-go traffic. Also, by adjusting driving times to avoid peak rush hours, you'll spend less time sitting in traffic and use less fuel. Whenever possible, carpool or use public transportation.