

**FUEL CONSUMPTION.** We hope these tips will help with fuel economy but as with most things, for these to achieve 20% to 25% benefits, a long term view has to be taken and you have to be committed to consistently completing the suggestions. That's the hard part. Most of these will be obvious but some will be worth thinking about. Tony Farndale.

1. Drive smoothly and generally slow down, keep to the speed limit – aggressive driving / engine acceleration can use as much as a third more fuel than less aggressive driving. Avoid accelerating or braking harshly and try to keep your steering as smooth as possible, even changes in direction use fuel. The faster you drive the more wind resistance you will encounter and the more fuel your vehicle will use just to maintain the speed. Driving just 5mph over the speed limit can affect fuel economy by up to 23%.

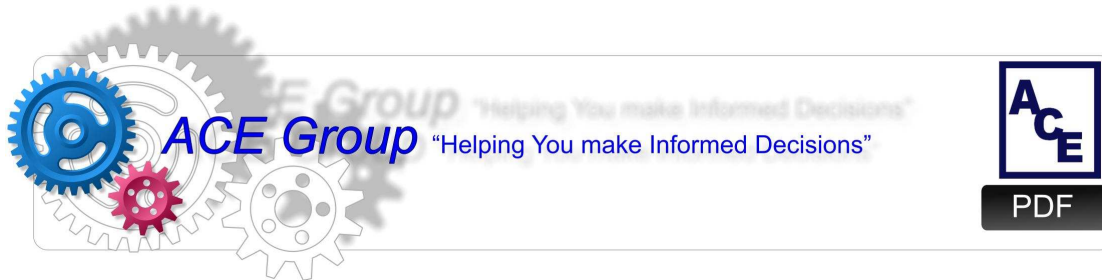
2. Use as higher gear as possible without labouring or stressing the engine unnecessarily – the higher gear you drive in the lower your engine speed (RPM), this can improve fuel economy, so change up a gear whenever you can, without labouring the engine and reduce the use of excessive engine braking by slowing down more progressively. Leave a sensible distance between yourself and the car ahead to give you ample time to brake evenly.

3. Tune and service your vehicle regularly and follow the manufacturers schedule – a well-maintained engine / vehicle can improve fuel economy by up to 4% by itself, so change your oil and follow your car manufacturers recommendation on servicing. If you service the vehicle yourself, check the air filter. Air filters keep impurities from damaging your engine. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve fuel economy by as much as 10% and will help protect your engine.

4. Keep your tyres at the right pressure, this will reduce tyre wear as an added benefit – correctly inflated tyres are safer and last longer. A tyre that is under inflated by just 1psi can reduce fuel efficiency by as much as 3%. An under or over inflated tyre is also more susceptible to failing in service.

5. Avoid carrying excess weight – for every extra 100 lbs (45 kg) you carry your fuel efficiency can drop by 1-2%. So keep your boot or back seat clear of unnecessary items that just add weight to your vehicle.

6. Keep the windows closed – wind blowing through an open window will slow you down. To compensate, you may put your foot down harder, using more fuel.



7. Take the roof rack off, luggage boxes etc – if you're not using your roof rack then remove it. They affect the aerodynamic efficiency of your vehicle and create drag, reducing fuel economy by as much as 5%.

8. Use the correct oil grade – always use the recommended grade of motor oil. Using the manufacturer's recommended lubricant can improve fuel efficiency by 1-2%. Higher quality motor oils can also help your engine operate more efficiently.

9. Fuel Matters – all fuels are not created equal, just like everything in life. Fuel economy is maximised in the engine through a combination of good driving techniques and using the best fuel available locally to you when you need to refuel. The latest fuels reduce friction and improve cleanliness in the engine, thereby boosting fuel efficiency. Keep the amount of fuel in the tank to a reasonable level for the use e.g. don't run on a full tank unless covering large distances as the added weight is using additional fuel to carry the stored fuel. Exceptions are winter and very bad weather when safety plays a factor.

10. Use cruise control – using cruise control on major roads helps you maintain a constant speed and in many cases, will improve fuel consumption as the engine speed will be maintained.

11. Avoid excessive idling – idling gets you nowhere but still burns fuel, it may keep you warm but is burning fuel. Turn the engine off when you're in a queue or waiting for someone, until you need it.

12. Plan trips carefully – cutting down on the time spent in the car is the easiest way to conserve fuel. To reduce driving time, combine all your short trips and errands into a single journey. Try to share journeys with others. (Car Share).

13. Use air conditioning sparingly – air conditioning puts added strain on the engine and uses fuel to operate, so limit use to particularly hot or cold days. On high temperate days use the fan instead. We would recommend, during the winter months, that you activate your air conditioning system once a week for a short period of time to lubricate the internal parts. The lubricant is suspended in the gas.

14. Avoid rush hour – if you can travel outside of peak traffic times, you will spend less time stuck in traffic with the engine idling and consume less fuel as a result.

15. Conserve momentum – think ahead when you're driving. For example, slow down early to let traffic lights change, rather than stopping completely or speed up a little before you reach the foot of a hill.

