

Many of the suggestions on this list are things you may be doing regularly, and we thank you for your efforts! Read on and perhaps you will find something you did not know so you can add to your bag of **fuel saving tricks**.

The Vehicle

Vehicle manufacturers are incorporating fuel economy into the designs of many vehicles. Be sure you know how to use these features to get the best value out of them. A great place to start is your owner's manual.

Analyze Your Route

Maybe it is time to look at your route again. Using protected traffic lights for left turns, readjusting to incorporate more right turns (they generally take less time than lefts) and combining several activities into one drive, are all ways to reduce fuel consumption.

Cruise Control

Use cruise control during extended trips on a flat, dry highway. This helps you save fuel by maintaining a consistent speed. Cruise control should not be used on wet roads, snow covered roads or in heavy traffic.

Windows versus Air Conditioning

When it gets hot outside, the inside of your vehicle will heat up as well. It is important to be comfortable as a driver so when you are travelling at less than 80 km/h, you will waste less fuel if you turn off the air and roll your windows down to stay cool. At speeds over 80 km/h, it is better for fuel economy if you use your air conditioning. In both cases your flow through vents will create the least aerodynamic resistance and may be enough to keep the interior comfortable.

Lose the Weight

Take off roof racks when they are not in use. Remove excess gear from your vehicle if it is not needed. The more weight you add, the more fuel you use.

Avoid Idling

With the exception of when you are driving, if you are stopped for more than 10 seconds, shut off your engine. Make sure your vehicle is parked safely then shut it down. You will use less fuel to restart your vehicle than leaving it idling.

Speed and Fuel

You will get the best fuel economy between 50 km/h and 80 km/h. Plan your route on roads within this range if you can. Your fuel efficiency will decrease by about 1% for every km/h over 100 km/h. Dropping your speed from 120 km/h to 100 km/h can save about 20% on fuel.

Regular Maintenance

Following the maintenance schedule in your owner's manual is a great way to ensure your vehicle is working at its best efficiency. Changing things like the filters regularly helps reduce emissions compared to a poorly maintained vehicle.

Tire Pressure

A properly inflated tire gives your vehicle the best balance between grip and fuel economy. Almost half of all vehicles in Canada have at least one tire improperly inflated, which equals the equivalent of 250 Olympic sized swimming pools worth of wasted fuel each year. Check your tires with a tire gauge once a month and when the temperature drops. Visually inspect your tires before you get in the vehicle each time you drive.

Block Heater

Using a block heater in cold weather warms up your engine before you start it. Use a timer so it isn't longer than it has to be. It is still necessary to drive gently for the first few minutes to allow your tires and fluids to warm up as well.

Easy Does It

Aggressive use of the gas and brake eats up fuel. Aim for smooth and steady! This also reduces wear and tear on your vehicle. Leaving extra space in front of you gives you more time and space to adjust to slowing traffic ahead. Avoiding a stop will save fuel.

Alternate Transportation

If you can, consider leaving your vehicle at home, or team up with others to car pool. There are lots of other ways to get around! Walk, cycle or take public transportation.