

Road Trip Gas Saving Tips

Before the Trip:

- Air filter - Make sure your air filter is clean. Air filters are easy to check and change and can help the performance and economy of your vehicle by allowing good air flow to the engine.
- Tire pressure - Tires that are under-inflated can cost you 2 to 3 MPG and then some.
- Evaluate your load - Clean out your car before adding all your travel necessities. Roof racks and carriers can help provide additional space, yet keep in mind they decrease your fuel economy by 5 percent.

During the Trip:

- Slow down - You're on vacation, there is absolutely no reason to rush, plus traveling 55 mph gives you 21% better mileage.
- Roll down the windows - Gasp! No A/C? Mother Nature's air is often the best kind of air to help give your vehicle a break. Consider keeping the A/C off a good portion of your trip when driving at reduced speeds around town or in city traffic.
- Keep the A/C going - Confused? Well, many studies show that keeping the A/C going isn't all that bad when driving at increased speeds on highways. The air conditioner will still consume fuel, but having the windows up will decrease the drag on your vehicle created from wind resistance.
- Gas purchases - Always try to buy gasoline when it's cooler. HowtoAdvice.com notes that gas tends to be densest during the early morning and late evening, where gas pumps measure volumes of gasoline, not densities of fuel concentration. You are charged according to "volume of measurement."
- Carpooling and friends - A road trip wouldn't be a road trip without a few close pals. Bring them along and plan to save on fuel together.