

## **42 TIPS ON SAVING GAS AND PUTTING MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET**

**These tips are provided as a public service,  
courtesy of Summit Point Apartments, 504 N. E. Chipman Road, Lee's Summit, MO  
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\*Multiple sources were researched to compile these tips. Save these tips for future reference and pass along copies to associates, friends, and relatives.

1. Before getting into your car, ask yourself "Is this trip necessary?"
2. If you have two vehicles, assess if you can get by with one or just drive the one every day that gets the best gas mileage. A loaded roof rack creates drag and can lower your gas mileage.
3. Operate as small a car as possible for your driving needs. (Small cars weighing half as much as large cars use about half as much gasoline!)
4. Consider car-pooling and share the ride and the gas bill
5. If possible, avoid driving during rush hour & other peak traffic periods.
6. Leave for work 15 minutes than normal. Leave earlier for other activities. Better planning reduces the need for speeding to get there to your workplace on time.
7. Plan the shortest route to where you are going, whether it be to work, for shopping, entertainment, vacation etc. Avoid bottlenecks.
8. Organize your activities and perform as many errands as possible in one trip.
9. When bargain hunting, check newspaper ads and use your telephone rather than driving around.
10. Make a list and do all your grocery shopping once or twice a week, rather than making frequent trips to the store.
11. Let the kids walk to school, if possible, take the school bus, or public transportation, if available.
12. If you have kids and they drive, teach them good driving habits.
13. Pack as little in your car as necessary or in your trunk, so it has less weight to carry.  
If you carry sports equipment or other heavy items in your car, remove them after use. For every 100lbs of extra weight you carry, it is estimated that it decreases gas mileage by 1-3%.
14. If you have any kind of a roof rack and/or carrier remove it. Racks and/or luggage or other items create drag and lower gas mileage.
15. During cold weather remove the snow and ice from your vehicle, which can create increased wind resistance thus reducing gas mileage.
16. Consider moving closer to where you work if you live a long distance from your work place. The further you drive, the more it costs.

17. When starting your car, don't idle it for more than 30 seconds, even in cold weather. Today's cars are designed to be driven almost immediately. The engine is more fuel efficient if you turn it off and restart it. Don't idle when waiting for someone. Turn it off and restart when they get in the car.
18. Excessive idling can reduce gas mileage by 18-20%
19. Shop around for service stations with the lowest gasoline prices.
20. Fill up during the coolest time of day, early morning or late evening is the best. During these times gasoline is densest. Gas pumps measure volumes of gasoline, not densities of fuel concentration. You are charged according to volume of measurement. In cooler times of the day, you get more gas for the money.
21. Use the lowest octane gas that won't make your engine knock.
22. Don't overfill your gas tank. Overfilling results in sloshing over and out of the tank.
23. Make certain your gas cap fits properly.
24. Keep your car properly tuned for top fuel efficiency.
25. Keep brakes properly adjusted. Dragging brakes increases resistance and affects gas mileage.
26. Make sure your tires are inflated to the manufacturer's recommendations on the tire, rolling resistance created by low tire pressure can reduce mileage by as much as 25-30% Under inflated tires can cause tire wall break down and also shorten the life of the tires.
27. Use radial tires for less friction between tire and road.
28. Change oil and filters every 3,000 miles or as directed by your vehicle manufacturer for greater engine operating efficiency.
29. Use snow tires and/or chains as little as necessary because they make your car work harder and use more gasoline
30. Avoid "jackrabbit" starts. When starting, press accelerator slowly. Accelerating slowly can increase your gas mileage from 27-35%.
31. Never rev engine before killing it. This wastes gas, wears out cylinders
32. Avoid panic stops. When possible, coast to stops such as when coming up to traffic lights
33. Don't speed. Cars get about **21%** more mileage at 55 mph than at 70 mph. Driving at slower speeds is also safer.
34. Use cruise control when possible. Drive at the speed limit or below. Depending on the vehicle and rate of speed you can increase gas mileage from 4-15% by using cruise control on the freeways and highways.
35. Drive evenly with a steady foot. Avoid jiggling the accelerator when not using cruise control.
36. Keep wheels aligned for better mileage – Longer tire life, too

37. Use air conditioning only when necessary. Air Conditioning reduces mileage from 10-20%
38. Don't slow down to gawk at traffic accidents, fires etc. Maintain a constant rate of speed where possible.
39. Use only your right foot for accelerating and braking. That way you can't accidentally ride the brake and use excessive gas.
40. Shift into high gear as soon as possible if you have stick shift. If you have automatic transmission, lift your foot from the accelerator about one second early.
41. Keep your steering wheel still while driving. The more you weave back and forth, the farther your car has to travel and the more gas is consumed. Stay in one lane at a steady speed.
42. When you see a hill ahead, build up speed before you reach it, and then maintain your speed on the slope. (If you must accelerate on the hill, you will use much more fuel).

By changing your driving habits you can improve your gas mileage by as much as 35-37% right away, depending on how you drive and what type of vehicle.

Saving just ½ gal of gas a day amounts to \$1.50 per day (@ \$3.00/gal) equals \$45.00 per month in savings. \$45.00 per month equals \$540.00 per year in savings. Saving one gallon of gas per day or equals \$90.00 per month equals \$1,080 per year in savings. It adds up.

### **Try this technique:**

Calculate your gas mileage and track your savings:

The next time you fill up your tank, write down the mileage from the Odometer and if you have one, set your trip odometer back to zero. Then the next time you fill up with gas, write the mileage down again from either your odometer or trip odometer. Then subtract the beginning mileage from the ending mileage. Now divide the miles you traveled by the number of gallons you put in the gas tank on the second fill up. This is your miles per gallon. Keep a record of the number of gallons of gas you use each month.

Then implement many of the tips above for 30 days. Recalculate your mileage again and check the savings in dollars and gallons. Do this frequently.

### **Benefits:**

What are the benefits of saving gas: First **YOU** benefit with more money in your pocket. Secondly, our country benefits from reduced gas consumption, which reduces the amount of oil we have to import from foreign countries.

**Hybrid Vehicles:** As soon as practical purchase a new or used hybrid vehicle...but still implement the tips above, saving more gas and money.

