

# drive the **\$**smarter challenge

## MONEY-**\$**AVING GAS TIPS

How you drive and maintain your vehicle affects your vehicle's fuel efficiency and gas costs. These simple tips can add up to savings worth weeks of groceries or other family needs. Why pay more at the pump than you have to?

### DRIVING TIPS

- ⑤ **CURB ROAD RAGE.** Speeding, rapid acceleration (jackrabbit starts), and rapid braking can lower gas mileage by 33% at highway speeds. Drivers can save up to 80 gallons of gasoline, or up to \$310, by driving sensibly on the highway. If you don't have a "lead foot," your savings may be closer to 10% at highway speeds – about \$95.
- ⑤ **DRIVE SENSIBLY.** Around town, sensible driving can save 5% – up to 30 gallons of gasoline and up to \$115.
- ⑤ **CHOOSE THE RIGHT VEHICLE.** If you own more than one vehicle, drive the one that gets better gas mileage whenever possible. If you drive 12,500 miles a year, switching 10% of your trips from driving a car that gets 20 mpg to one that gets 30 mpg will save you almost \$80 per year.
- ⑤ **DITCH "JUNK IN THE TRUNK."** An extra 100 pounds in the trunk cuts a typical vehicle's fuel economy by up to 2%. You can save up to 12 gallons of gasoline per year – about \$45 – by removing an extra 100 pounds of unneeded items from the trunk.
- ⑤ **DECREASE YOUR SPEED.** Speeding costs! Gas mileage usually decreases rapidly above 60 mph. Each five miles per hour over 60 mph is like paying an additional 20 cents per gallon for gas.
- ⑤ **AVOID IDLING.** Idling gets 0 mpg. Cars with larger engines typically waste even more gas while idling than cars with smaller engines.
- ⑤ **BUY \$MART.** When buying a new or used vehicle, think high gas mileage. Check out the U.S. Department of Energy's website ([fuelconomy.gov](http://fuelconomy.gov)) or look for a SmartWay® certified vehicle on EPA's Green Vehicle Guide ([epa.gov/greenvehicles](http://epa.gov/greenvehicles)) for information on fuel-efficient vehicles.

## MAINTENANCE TIPS

- ⑤ **INFLATE YOUR TIRES.** Keeping your tires properly inflated is simple and improves gas mileage by around 3%, saving up to 20 gallons of gasoline, or up to \$75.
- ⑤ **TUNE UP.** Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4% — saving up to 25 gallons of gasoline and about \$95. Fixing a faulty oxygen sensor can improve mileage by as much as 40% — saving up to 250 gallons of gasoline or up to \$940.
- ⑤ **CHECK AND REPLACE AIR FILTERS REGULARLY.** Replacing a clogged or dirty air filter keeps impurities from damaging the inside of your engine -- though in newer model cars it does not improve fuel efficiency.
- ⑤ **SELECT THE RIGHT OIL.** Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil, including re-refined motor oil, improves gas mileage by 1 to 2%, resulting in annual savings of up to \$45. Motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol contains friction-reducing additives. Also, change your oil as recommended to extend the life of your vehicle and remember to recycle the used oil which can be re-refined, saving even more energy.
- ⑤ **TAKE THE *DRIVE SMARTER CHALLENGE*** and get more money-saving fuel-efficiency ideas and related product discounts. Share them with your family and friends and "fuel the challenge."

## DriveSmarterChallenge.org

*Tips are calculated as annual savings, driving the national average of 12,500 miles per year in a vehicle with a fuel economy of 20.1 mpg using regular grade gasoline at \$3.78 per gallon—the projected 2008 annual average by the Energy Information Administration's June Short Term Energy Outlook.*

*Savings estimates represent the highest likely savings to occur. Individual savings will vary depending on how many miles you drive per year, the fuel economy of your vehicle, your region's climate, and your current maintenance and driving habits.*



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**SAVE ENERGY**  
*Creating an Energy-Efficient World*