

Top Tips for Better Fuel Economy

There are a lot of things we can do to make genuine fuel economy improvements right now, and for free. These top tips are tried and tested ideas that really do make a positive difference to your car's fuel economy. So, have a read and start making savings straight away!

1 - Drive smoothly

Driving by aggressively accelerating or breaking wastes up to 60% fuel. When pulling away from the lights, try to accelerate gently. In a long tailback, try driving slowly forwards in a low gear, thus reducing the need to brake and avoid stop/start motoring. It'll reduce brake and clutch wear too.

2 - Read the road ahead

When driving, try to look ahead and read the conditions of the road - look out for anything that might require you to slow down or stop. By anticipating what is coming up, you'll not only be a safer driver, but you'll save fuel by starting to slow down early and not needing to come to a stop.

3 - Use the gears sensibly

Correct use of gears can make huge savings on your fuel bill of up to 15%! Make sure you change up into a higher gear as soon as it's possible and safe to do so.

4 - Stick to the limit

Doing 80mph on the motorway will use between 10% and 20% more fuel than doing 70mph, not to mention its illegal! If you're not in a hurry to get anywhere, doing 70mph will use between 20% and 30% more fuel than doing 50mph - suddenly being stuck behind a lorry doesn't seem so bad!

5 - Check your tyres

Make sure you check your car and caravan tyre pressures regularly. An under-inflated tyre can increase fuel consumption by 3%, and it will wear out quicker too.

6 - Turn off the Air Conditioning

Running the air con when you don't need it will waste a lot of fuel. Try to avoid opening the windows when driving at speed as this can increase aerodynamic drag which will waste more fuel..

7 - Keep your car and caravan in tip-top condition

Keep your car and caravan well maintained by making sure the recommended service schedule is followed. A well-tuned engine will run more efficiently than an engine that has been neglected.

8 - A perfect match

If you are towing a caravan, choose a tow-car that is the right match for your caravan so you are not constantly changing gear. Caravan dealers can help you with this. Always remember though that the more weight that you carry the more you have to accelerate and brake in speed changes.

9 - Be Cycle Savvy

Cycling when on holiday is a virtually zero emission way of getting around. But irregular-shaped items, such as bicycles, on a roof rack increases wind drag. Rear-mounted carriers are more energy efficient.

10 - Box clever

The use of a profiled roof-box may enhance the aerodynamic properties of the tow-car/caravan combination and reduce fuel consumption. Remove roof bars when not in use, otherwise fuel consumption will be worsened.