

## 15 Ways to Save on Gas

With gas prices soaring, your finances can really take a beating! Fortunately, there are a number of ways you can relieve the pain of high gas prices. And no, we're not talking about leaving your car in the garage and using a bike ... though that's not a bad idea, come to think of it.

1. The first thing you should do is drive a little slower. The U.S. Department of Energy says that every five miles per hour you drive over 60 is like adding 15 cents to each gallon of gas you purchase. Besides, when you stay within the speed limit, you will also avoid costly speeding tickets.
2. Avoid burning rubber – both when you start and when you stop. Jackrabbit starts can cut your mileage by as much as 33%. On top of that, aggressive driving also increases wear and tear on your engine, your tires ... and your passengers!
3. Drive at a consistent speed and use cruise control whenever possible. In addition to saving gas, it will help reduce engine wear and costly repairs.
4. When you're stuck in traffic or waiting at a crossing for a train to pass, you're getting zero MPG, so shut the engine off if you expect to stand still for several minutes. Did you know that this is how hybrid cars get such good mileage? The engine shuts off when the car is stopped. Then, an electric motor gets the car rolling again, and finally the gas engine starts up again when the car reaches a certain velocity.
5. Combine trips rather than making a lot of short trips.
6. If you drive to work, ask your boss if you can come to work a little early or leave a little late. By avoiding rush hour, you'll save a considerable amount of gas, not to mention the hassles of commuting.
7. Carpool to work if possible. By sharing a ride with just one other person, your commuting expenses will be cut in half!
8. More and more companies are letting employees telecommute. Ask your employer if you can work from home. Even if they won't let you do that every day, you may be able to arrange to work out of your home one or two days a week.
9. When driving around town, turn off the air conditioner when you can. While your AC can make you feel more comfortable, you'll feel less comfortable at the pump because it can increase fuel consumption by up to 20%. At highway speeds, however, keep your windows shut and the AC on. Wind resistance caused by open windows will reduce your gas mileage.

10. Take your owner's manual out of your glove box and follow the recommended service schedule. This will keep your car in good shape and could also save you 5% or more on gas. For example, by replacing your air filter when it gets dirty, you can cut gas mileage by as much as 10%.

11. Check your tires once a month to make sure they are inflated to the proper pressure. According to the Department of Energy, under-inflating your tires can lower gas mileage by as much as 0.4% for every pound per square inch drop in pressure. On top of that, under-inflated tires will wear out faster.

12. Don't carry extra weight in your vehicle. If your car's trunk is filled with stuff you don't need to take with you, take it out and leave it in your garage. Extra weight burns extra fuel.

13. Don't buy higher octane fuel than necessary. If your car's engine was designed to run on 87 octane, filling your tank with 92 octane premium is a waste of money, because it won't make your car perform better.

14. If you're buying a car, select a car that gets better gas mileage. The savings can really add up over the lifetime of your car!

15. And finally, fill up at gas stations with the lowest prices. If all the gas stations are priced exactly the same, some may offer coupons to save a few cents on each gallon. Become familiar with the gas stations in your area and learn which ones are good places to fuel up.