

# FASTENAL®



## 5 Tips for Improving Your Fuel Mileage

**TURN OFF YOUR VEHICLE:** Every moment you spend idling, you're getting ZERO mpg and putting unnecessary wear and tear on your engine. To settle an age-old argument, idling for more than 10 seconds wastes more gas than starting your engine, so if you're going to be parked somewhere for more than 10 seconds – and it's safe to do so – you should turn off the vehicle. An "idle" thought to ponder when deciding whether to turn off your car: Americans idle away roughly 2.9 billion gallons of gas a year, worth around \$78.2 billion. That's about as much fuel as the entire nation of India (population: 1,147,995,898) consumes annually.

**SLOW DOWN:** Keeping your highway speed at 55 mph can improve your gas mileage by as much as 25 percent vs. driving at 75 mph. As a rule of thumb, you can assume that each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.20 per gallon for gas.

**CHECK YOUR AIR PRESSURE:** Under-inflated tires don't last as long, and they can drag down your fuel mileage by up to 4 percent for every 5 pounds of under-inflation. Check your tires on a regular basis and keep them properly inflated, but be careful not to over-inflate them, which can also shorten tire life because of uneven or premature tire wear. Remember, the psi rating on the sidewall of the tire is the *maximum* inflation psi; the proper inflation level is shown on a sticker inside the driver's door.

**USE YOUR A/C WISELY:** Fuel consumption can be improved by up to 10 percent on the highway and 15 percent in the city when you don't use your air conditioner. For freeway driving in particular, those benefits can vary significantly depending on what kind of car you drive. Generally speaking, the 10-percent mileage gain cited above applies to trucks and SUVs. For many sedans, however, there's actually minimal benefit to driving at highway speeds with the A/C off and the windows down vs. driving with the windows up and the A/C on a low setting.

**USE CRUISE, NOT OVERDRIVE:** Many automatic vehicles are equipped with an overdrive switch. When the switch is activated, the transmission will not use overdrive, which can greatly decrease gas mileage. As a rule, the overdrive switch should only be used when the vehicle is heavily loaded. Additionally, using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and in most cases, aside from, say, driving on hilly terrain, will save gas.



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