AAA Carolinas

Gas Saving Tips

You, The Driver...

1. Slow Down. For every extra five mph you drive over 65 mph, your gas mileage can drop by up to 10 percent. Higher speeds require more fuel to overcome air resistance. Speeding is not safe and it lowers gas mileage.

2. Use Your Cruise Control. When possible, use your cruise control to help maintain a steady speed.

3. Drive Conservatively. Punching the gas pedal uses more fuel than is necessary to accelerate.

4. Combine Errands. Making several stops during one trip is more efficient than making "cold" starts with your vehicle. Frequent short trips can reduce fuel economy.

...And Your Car

1. Change Oil and Air Filters. A clogged or dirty air filter makes your engine work harder, cutting gas mileage by up to 10 percent. Check your filters twice a year.

2. Tune Ups. Serious maintenance and emissions problems can lower gas mileage. Regular maintenance check-ups are crucial to maintaining your gas mileage.

3. Tire Air Pressure. Using the recommended air pressure for your tires gives you a soft smooth ride, and the best fuel mileage. Find your tire's air pressure recommendation in your owner's manual, on your tires, or on the decal inside your driver's side door. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by up to 5 percent.

4. Use Unleaded Regular Gas. Use unleaded regular unless your owner's manual says otherwise. High-octane gas won't improve mileage or performance in cars that don't require it.

5. Avoid Excess Idling. Idling gets 0 miles per gallon. One rule of thumb is not to idle your car for more than 10 seconds UNLESS you are in street traffic (where turning off your car could cause other motorists to rear end your vehicle).

6. Weight. Check what you are carting around in your car. Take off overhead cargo carriers when not in use. Hauling an extra 100 pounds around can cut fuel economy by up to 2 percent.

7. Use Air Conditioning Wisely. Roll down your windows when driving less than 35 mph. At higher speeds, the drag caused by wind resistance negates any fuel savings from not running the air conditioning. Most air conditioners have a "recirculation" setting that reduces the amount of hot outside air that must be chilled, reducing the amount of work the air conditioner must do and saving gas.

8. Minimize Braking. Look ahead to anticipate slow downs and red lights. Decelerate your speed by coasting to a stop whenever possible.

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