

# Quick Tips for Saving Money on Gasoline

Here are some tips for spending less on gasoline:

- *Use the recommended kind of fuel for your car.* For most cars, the recommended gasoline is regular octane.
- *Use the right kind of oil for your car.* You may be able to increase fuel economy by 1 to 2 percent by using the proper kind of motor oil.
- *Make sure your tires are properly inflated.* Properly inflated tires can increase fuel economy by 3 percent or more.
- *Comparison-shop for gas prices.* Visit sites like [www.gasbuddy.com](http://www.gasbuddy.com) and [www.gaspricewatch.com](http://www.gaspricewatch.com) to find the best prices in your area. AAA also provides a “Fuel Price Finder” that lets you check prices by zip code. Go to [www.aaamidatlantic.com](http://www.aaamidatlantic.com) for more information.
- *Avoid frequent speeding up and braking.* These lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and 5 percent at lower speeds. You can improve your fuel economy by maintaining a steady speed. Try using cruise control to set a consistent speed.
- *Avoid idling.* Idling wastes fuel. Experts recommend that if you’re going to be stopped for longer than 10 seconds, unless you’re in traffic, turn off your engine.
- *Observe the speed limit.* Gas mileage decreases sharply at higher speeds. Every 5 mph that you drive over 60 mph is equivalent to paying an extra 15 cents per gallon for gas, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- *Get regular tune-ups.* A poorly tuned engine uses more gas.
- *Don’t run the air conditioner unless absolutely necessary.* Air conditioning uses up gas. To stay cool at highway speeds, use your car’s flow-through ventilation. If you still need air conditioning, keep the windows closed and turn on the air conditioner only as needed.
- *Travel light.* Remove unnecessary items from your trunk and roof rack, especially heavy ones. A loaded roof rack can reduce your fuel economy by 5 percent. Remove ski racks and bike racks when not in use.
- *Choose the most fuel-efficient vehicle you can afford* if you are in the market for a new or used vehicle.
- *Combine short trips and errands.* Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- *Carpool and use public transportation.* Carpooling and sharing rides to work saves money on gas and general wear and tear on your vehicle.