

1. Smart Driving Tips

Avoid High Speeds - When driving on the motorway try and limit your speed as much as possible, the average car consumes 38% more fuel at 70mph than it does at 50mph. Avoiding high speeds on motorways can save a lot of petrol. Around 50% of the power produced by the engine is used to overcome aerodynamic drag, drag increases rapidly above 70mph so your fuel consumption will suffer.

Smooth Driving - Acceleration and deceleration is what uses most fuel. For this reason you will improve your fuel consumption with smooth driving, heavy braking can be reduced by not tail gaiting and slowing down gradually when coming up to a red light. Also avoid heavy acceleration from the lights and try not to rev too much.

Use The Right Gear - To maintain low revs whilst driving you should change gear as soon as is practical. Engines run most economically at revs between 1,500 and 2,500 so aim to always be between this unless more power is required.

Don't Coast In Neutral - Modern cars automatically shut off fuel to the engine if you're not accelerating, but in neutral the engine will still use a tiny amount of petrol to stop it from stalling, so when cruising up to the lights keep the car in gear.

Close Your Window - If you are driving fast then don't have your windows open unless necessary. Having the windows open when driving at over 50mph causes significant drag which increases fuel consumption, even at lower speeds it may affect your consumption. So close your window and put the fans on!

2. Best Time to Buy Petrol

It is best to buy your fuel when it is coolest IE the morning or evening; this is because Petrol becomes denser in colder temperatures. Petrol pumps measure the volume of fuel that you pump and not the actual density. Simply put, this means if you fill up your petrol tank at the times of the day when it is coolest (morning and evening), then you will be getting better petrol price economy! And of course you will also miss the rush hours meaning you have to spend less time at the station.

Problems

Different petrol stations in different countries may store their petrol in different sorts of tanks, so some petrol may not be exposed to different temperatures meaning you can't benefit from the temperature changes. Another problem is you may have to get up slightly earlier to fill up in the morning!

3. Maintain Your Tyres

Pump Up Your Tyres - Under inflated tyres increase resistance which harms your fuel consumption. It is estimated 50% of tyres on the road are under inflated. Check your car

manual for the recommended pressure then go to your local petrol station and use their pump, this is normally free! If your tyres are under inflated by 20% this will result in a 3% fuel consumption increase and reduce the tyre life by 30%. Pumping your tyres up is one of the easiest and quickest ways to instantly improve your fuel consumption.

Check For Wear - If your tyres are bald this is not only illegal but dangerous and harming your fuel economy.

Fit Thinner Tyres - Thicker tyres have more rolling resistance which means higher fuel consumption. Fitting thinner tyres will improve your fuel consumption; however your car will not handle as well with thinner tyres. Always seek advice of a garage before buying thinner tyres.