# Change Your Driving Habits

Changing your driving habits (adjusting the nut behind the wheel) can net HUGE increases in gas mileage, some people report over 35% gains! That's like going from 30mpg to over 41mpg!

#### 1 - Get instrumentation

The most important thing you can do is get some instant feedback so that you know what's going on with your car. If you are driving an OBD2 vehicle (1996 and up), go to www.scanguage.com and pick yourself up a Scanguage II. For older, fuel injected cars, check out the SuperMID. It is more limited in terms of compatibility, but very worth it if your vehicle is compatible.

#### 2 - Slow down!

Air resistance increases exponentially with speed, so slow down! The difference between 55 and 75 is astronomical.

#### 3 - Plan your route

One of the easiest things to do is choose a better route and combine several short trips into one longer trip.

## 4 - Stop idling

When you idle, you are getting 0 MPG. Idling the car in the cold does not warm it up much, but it does use a lot of gas. Just drive gently after starting up. If you live in a cold area and need to warm up your vehicle, use an engine block heater.

#### 5 - Avoid rapid acceleration and hard braking

These sort of actions waste gas. Instead of braking hard, coast from a distance. Use your brakes as sparingly as possible. Also, be aware the slamming the gas will only dump more fuel on than is necessary. Conservative acceleration will generally return the best fuel economy.

#### 6 - Anticipate changes in traffic

If you know that a light is going to become red or turn green, slow down in advance and give it time to do so rather than gunning the gas up to the stop. In heavy traffic give yourself a bit of space before starting up, try to keep moving slowly rather than "stop-and-go" This is one of the best tips for driving, as it will prevent you from making many unnecessary stops.

#### 7 - Reduce engine loads

High fans, fog lights, loud stereos, A/C, add load to the engine and reduce fuel economy. So turn them off if you don't need them!

### 8 - P&G (Pulse and Glide)

To P&G you pick a target speed (say 40) and accelerate past it (to 50) and EOC until your speed drops (to 30), you then start up again and accelerate back to the upper target. Rinse and repeat for awesome mileage. Note: This is best done when no one is around and can be very annoying to other drivers!

#### 9- EOC (Engine Off Coast)

Engine off coasting is the way to go to increase fuel economy to astronomical amounts. This is very difficult and can be unsafe, so be very careful when using it. The basic drill is to put the car in neutral, turn the engine off, and turn the key back to run (to give you the use of the speedometer as well as the ability to turn the wheel). This technique can be dangerous because your vehicle can lose power steering and power braking assist while the engine is off, so be careful!

# 🍪 Drive Less 🕴

This is the easiest way to use less gas!

#### 1 - Live closer to work

Living near your job will not only reduce your gas consumption, but will reduce stress, be safer, and give you more free time. If you're spending 10 hours a week commuting, consider a change.

#### 2 - Carpool

Carpooling will not only reduce consumption, but will reduce vehicle wear and tear, saving you a lot of money overall. Carpooling reduces road congestion, and really isn't all that bad. Make a friend at work and commute together, it'll be nice not to have to drive all the time!

#### 3 - Bike

If you live close to work, biking can create entire days when you don't even turn on your car. Even if you don't live close to work, chances are that you live close to something you do. For those short trips to the bank, the post office, etc., consider getting on the old bike out of the garage and getting a workout. You'll enjoy yourself more and won't be using any gas! Also, keep in mind that short trips are the hardest on your gas mileage. Eliminating all those below-average, aroundtown trips will boost your mileage without even touching your car.

#### 4 - Combine short trips

You've probably heard this a million times, combining trips will save you gas, simple as that.

# What's my gas mileage now?

By tracking your gas mileage over time, you will be able to see what changes are helping to improve your gas mileage, and what types of driving are hurting your gas mileage.

Keep track of your gas mileage by keeping a small notebook in your glove compartment. Every time you fill up your gas tank record the following things: -The date

-Miles driven since last fillup

-Number of gallons you put in the tank

-Gas mileage\*

25555551 \*Miles driven / Fuel used = MPG

> You can track your gas mileage online at ecomodder.com. Just click on "EM Garage" and enter your vehicle's information to start a fuel log.



#### 1 - Low rolling resistance tires

Much like increasing the tire pressure, LRR tires reduce rolling resistance by using a harder rubber material. They are a little harder to find, but keep them in mind next time you're shopping for tires.

#### 2 - Increase tire pressure

This is one of the easiest ways to increase mileage. Inflate your tires to the maximum pressure listed on the sidewall, or even a bit above that pressure. When overinflating, inflate a bit at a time to test handling and feel before you settle somewhere comfortable. Be prepared for a bit rougher of a ride, but you will see the fuel economy increase!

#### 3 - Block your grill

The air drag caused by the radiator is rather large, so grab some corrugated plastic and block your grill. Be careful to make your first block easily removable and watch the temperature gauge to make sure you don't overheat. It's important to find a balance between cooling and aerodynamics, even a partial block will help.

#### 4 - Improve your vehicles aerodynamics

Aerodynamic drag is the single biggest factor in gas mileage at highway speeds. There are many ways to improve your vehicles aerodyamics depending on the vehicle, of course. Adding a truck bed-cap, getting smooth "racing disc" hubcaps, and making your own wheel fairings are all ways you can minimize your aerodynamic losses.

For more information on any of these topics please visit:



# YOUR MILEAGE **MAY VARY**

How to increase the MPG of any vehicle in three easy steps.

