

Simple Ways to Save Gas Money and Help Reduce Air Pollution

Air pollution in most major cities tends to peak during the summer months. When you're out and about, please remember that by using less gasoline, you'll not only spend less money, but you'll also help keep air pollution at bay. Below are some easy ways to save gas money while saving the air:



- **Drive the speed limit or less.** Gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 50 miles per hour (mph). If you drive steadily at 75 rather than 65 mph, you'll use about 14% more gasoline per gallon, depending on your engine size.
- **Ease up on the gas and brake pedals.** Speeding, rapid acceleration, and excessive braking can lower gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent at lower speeds.
- **Park and go inside.** Idling a vehicle's engine for more than 30 seconds in drive-through lanes at restaurants, banks, and pharmacies uses more gas than turning off your engine and re-starting it. Idling can use 1/4 to 1/2 gallon of fuel per hour.
- **Keep the junk out of your trunk.** An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle reduces fuel economy by 1 to 2 percent per gallon.
- **Don't load your car rack.** If you must use your vehicle to haul items, it's better to put them inside than on a roof rack. Due to aerodynamic drag, a loaded roof rack can decrease your fuel economy by 10-25 percent on the highway.
- **Combine errands into one trip.** Several single, short trips taken with a cold engine can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- **Close your windows at higher speeds, and turn on the air conditioning if you're hot.** Unless you are driving under 35 mph, using the AC uses less fuel than opening your windows.
- **Avoid traffic congestion.** You're burning fuel by going nowhere when your vehicle is stopped in heavy traffic. When possible, don't drive during peak rush hours and avoid heavy traffic areas.
- **Share the ride.** When you ride with just one other person who lives nearby, half the amount of gas otherwise used is saved.
- **Walk or bike for trips of a mile or less.** According to a Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey, 25 percent of all trips are made within a mile of one's home. Why not walk or ride a bike? It costs nothing and is great exercise.