

Take Control of your Fuel Economy

Although vehicle manufacturers have made major fuel economy gains as well as have improving overall performance, your driving habits may not be conducive to reaping the most miles per gallon obtainable. In other words, why waste money and natural resources when it's so easy to improve fuel economy? The higher efficiency of today's cars means that a single change won't bring about drastic results, but a combination of small alterations will noticeably improve fuel economy.

Check out the following tips. Try a few that can be easily adapted to your driving and maintenance habits.

- **Don't be a lead foot:** Smooth driving is an easy way to improve fuel economy. Hard starts and stops are wasteful. Try to maintain a consistent speed. Look ahead and plan ahead: don't race up to a red light only to stop and wait for it to change. This type of driving not only wastes fuel, but it also prematurely wears out brake components.
- **Keep a log:** Track fuel economy changes so you have a means of comparison. Check your gas mileage every time you fill up. Note new techniques to see if they work. A consistent, year-round log is best because winter weather can lower fuel economy. A fuel economy log is a great way to keep track of maintenance schedules. If you notice that mileage figures are falling, it's probably time for a tune-up or fuel induction cleaning service
- **Proper tire inflation:** under-inflated tires waste millions of gallons of fuel each year. Maintaining optimum tire inflation is one of the best things you can do to increase fuel economy. Inflate your tires to the upper limit of the manufacturer's recommendations. Have your tires filled with Nitrogen gas. Nitrogen gas is made up of larger molecules than regular compressed air and will not seep through the tire walls as easily, therefore the tires will retain proper inflation longer.
- **Put your Vehicle on a Diet:** It obviously takes more fuel to move a heavier payload. Inspect your trunk and remove any unnecessary weight. For example, don't carry tire chains in the summer. When it snows, keep the snow off the roof and trunk of your car. A pickup truck bed can accumulate over a hundred pounds of snow. A Tonneau cover can limit the snow capacity in the winter and lower the air drag all year long.

Keeping your vehicle in peak condition is the best way to assure you're getting the most for your money. Manufacturer Maintenance Schedules are in place to keep your investment running as efficiently as possible.