



You may have noticed that gas prices are at the highest point in more than two years, nearing \$3 per gallon on average. While you can't control the price of gas, you can SAVE MONEY by following these simple tips.

Keep your vehicle running efficiently by simply checking the tires, air filters, spark plugs and gas caps as this can make a significant difference in the vehicle's fuel economy.

Fuel economy is directly related to vehicle maintenance. The Car Care Council offers these gas-saving maintenance tips to maximize fuel savings:

- Keep your car properly tuned to improve gas mileage by an average of 4 percent.
- Keep tires properly inflated and improve gas mileage by 3 percent.
- Replace dirty or clogged air filters to improve gas mileage by as much as 14 percent.
- Replace dirty spark plugs, which can reduce mileage by two miles per gallon.
- Change oil regularly and gain another mile per gallon.

Driving behavior also impacts fuel efficiency. The Council offers these gas-saving driving tips:

- Observe the speed limit. Gas mileage decreases rapidly above 60 mph.
- Avoid excessive idling. Idling gets zero miles per gallon. Warming up the vehicle for one or two minutes is sufficient.
- Avoid quick starts and stops. Aggressive driving can lower gas mileage by 33 % on the highway and 15 % in the city.
- Consolidate trips. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much gas as one longer multi-purpose trip.
- Don't haul unneeded items in the trunk. An extra 100 pounds in the trunk reduces fuel economy by 1 to 2 percent.

Following these simple tips will save you money at the pump and will help your vehicle run more efficiently and safely while retaining a higher value when it's time to sell.