

Dramatically Cut Your Gas Bill

Gas prices have been holding steady around \$2.50 per gallon, which can mean a hefty sale at the pump. Avoid the blow to your wallet by following these simple steps:

- Don't speed. Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. (Each 5 mph over is like paying 15 cents more per gallon.)
- Be patient. When the light turns green, gradually increase your speed. Avoid racing from stoplight to stop sign. A recent study showed that aggressive driving cut travel time by 4 percent (2 ½ minutes out of an hour drive) and hiked fuel consumption by 39 percent.
- Empty your trunk. Take out everything in your car that doesn't need to be there. An extra 100 lbs. can decrease fuel economy by 2 percent, or one mile per gallon – more for smaller cars. And if you must carry something, don't put it on the roof rack. Wind resistance cuts fuel economy by 5 percent.
- Properly inflate your tires. By pumping an extra two psi over your recommended settings, you'll save 3 percent. But never go above 35 psi.
- Use manufacturer-recommended oil and change it regularly. You'll save 3 percent of fuel costs.
- Check and replace air filters regularly. You'll save 10 percent, or 25 cents per gallon.
- Open your windows when driving at lower speeds. When driving over 40 mph, using the air conditioner consumes less fuel than having the windows open, which increases drag.
- Don't idle. You're getting 0 miles per gallon when you idle so shut off your engine if you're not going anywhere for awhile.

Source: www.ThirdAge.com