

MAINTENANCE THAT CAN SAVE ON GASOLINE

Steps you can take to lower your bill at the fuel pump

With fluctuating gas prices, most drivers want to do everything they can to squeeze better gas mileage out of their current car.

Fortunately, with proper maintenance, cars can get noticeable improvements in fuel economy that will help to save money down the road. Here's a look at six things you can do to boost your car's gas mileage:



TIRE PRESSURE

Among of the easiest but often overlooked maintenance items on your car are the tires. Experts say you can improve your gas mileage by up to 3 percent by keeping your tires properly inflated. It's also an important safety measure.



TUNE UP

Giving your car a tune-up can improve gas mileage by up to 4 percent. Check your car's owner's manual to follow the proper maintenance schedule. Worn-out parts or outdated sensors can cause your car to waste fuel, so make sure everything under the hood is in good condition.



OIL CHANGES

Regular oil changes aren't just required for a long-lasting engine. They can also help improve gas mileage, too. By keeping the friction in your engine down to a minimum, fresh oil can create a slight improvement in fuel economy.



SPARK PLUGS

Old, dirty spark plugs can cause a 2-mpg drop in your car's gas mileage. Use the correct spark plugs for your car, and carefully check the plug gaps to ensure a clean spark and complete combustion in your engine, which saves on gas money.



AIR FILTER

Your engine needs to breathe cleanly to get the best performance and fuel economy. Dirty or clogged air filters can cause a drastic drop in mileage — up to 14 percent on older cars — so always make sure your air filter is clean to get the most out of every tank of gas.



GAS CAP

Finally, your gasoline can disappear into thin air if your gas cap is loose, damaged or missing. Gasoline will evaporate if there's not a tight seal at the cap, so make sure you regularly check it for proper function and condition.



FUEL ECONOMY WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

SAVES YOU MONEY

Save as much as \$1,400 in fuel costs each year by choosing the most efficient vehicle that meets your needs. See how much you can save.

REDUCES CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) from burning gasoline and diesel contributes to global climate change. You can do your part to reduce climate change by reducing your carbon footprint.

REDUCES OIL DEPENDENCE COSTS

Our dependence on oil makes us vulnerable to oil market manipulation and price shocks. Find out how oil dependence hurts our economy.

INCREASES ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY

Oil is a non-renewable resource, and we cannot sustain our current rate of use indefinitely. Using it wisely now allows us time to find alternative technologies and fuels that will be more sustainable.

SOURCE: www.fueleconomy.gov

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