



IDLE FREE FROM THE START



10 ECO-DRIVING TIPS TO MAKE YOU 24%* MORE FUEL EFFICIENT!

- 1. Slow down and watch speed.** Drive 60 to 65 miles per hour instead of 75 to save fuel. EPA estimates an up to 15 percent improvement in fuel economy by following this tip.
- 2. Accelerate and brake smoothly.** Maximize vehicle momentum by maintaining a safe distance between vehicles and anticipating traffic conditions to allow for more time to brake and accelerate gradually. Fast starts and hard braking wastes fuel and causes increased wear to brakes and tires.
- 3. Avoid excessive idling when parked.** Idling wastes fuel, causes engine wear, and can cause respiratory illnesses. Limit stationary warm ups to 30 seconds when possible (make sure defrosting is adequate). Driving gently to moderately is the best way to warm up. If you're parked in town, idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than shutting off and restarting. 
- 4. Check tires.** Keep tires properly inflated to the recommended tire pressure. Under-inflated tires increase rolling resistance and can reduce fuel economy by 3-4%. They also wear more rapidly.
- 5. Be kind to your vehicle.** Follow the owner's manual maintenance schedule. Keep the engine tuned up to run most efficiently. Keep the wheels aligned. Wheels that are fighting each other waste fuel. Replace air filters as recommended.
- 6. Travel light.** Unnecessary weight, such as unneeded items in the trunk and a lot of luggage on the roof rack, makes the engine work harder and consumes more fuel.
- 7. Minimize air conditioning.** Decreasing air conditioning when temperatures are above 80 degrees can help save 10-15 percent of fuel. Use the vent setting as much as possible. Park in the shade to keep car cool and reduce the need for air conditioning.
- 8. Close windows at highway speeds.** Don't drive with the windows open unless your speed under 50 mph. Driving with the windows open at highway speeds increases aerodynamic drag on the vehicle and lowers fuel economy.
- 9. Consolidate trips.** Plan ahead to consolidate your trips. This will enable bypassing congested routes, leading to less idling, fewer start-ups and less stop-and-go traffic.
- 10. Consider alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel.** Consider ridesharing, carpooling, public transportation, riding a bike or walking. 

*<http://www.greencarcongress.com/2008/08/ford-testing-sh.html>

Canadian Automobile Assoc. (CAA) Fuel Efficient Driving Tips Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Chorv4X3-Ug>



Wayne Michaud, Executive Director Idle-Free California Inc.
For the facts on idling, visit idlefreecalifornia.org