



Save Money on Gasoline as Prices Continue to Rise

As fuel prices are rising across the nation, TrueCar.com—an authority on new car pricing, trends and forecasting—offers the following tips to help motorists save money on gas.

"Changing your driving behavior will make the single biggest difference in how much fuel you can save," explains Jesse Toprak, vice president of Industry Trends and Insights at TrueCar.com. "Worn spark plugs, clogged air filters and under-inflated tires also help decrease your fuel economy."

Some of the consumer-friendly money saving gas tips include:

Drive more smoothly

Aggressive driving has an impact on how much fuel you consume. When driving, pushing the gas pedal hard or slamming the brakes will lower your average fuel economy. Aggressive driving can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent on the highway and 5 percent around town.

Slow down

Most vehicles get the most amount of fuel efficiency when driving between 45 and 55 miles per hour. The Department of Energy figures that for every five miles you drive going in excess of 60 mph, you could lose somewhere between 7-23 percent of fuel efficiency.

Use regular fuel

Use premium fuel only when needed. Regular unleaded fuel won't hurt most vehicles even if premium unleaded fuel is recommended. Unless your engine starts to knock or ping when using a lower-grade fuel, stick to regular.



Reduce idling

Turn off your engine if you're waiting for more than 20 seconds. Idling wastes more gas than turning off your engine and restarting it.

Shop for gas

A variety of websites are available to help you locate the cheapest gas in your area. Some GPS devices can also help you search for the lowest gas price, saving you the hassle of burning more fuel while looking for the best option.

Drive a fuel-efficient car

Buying a new car that is more fuel efficient, such as a hybrid or small vehicle, makes good financial sense as gas prices continue to rise.

Prepare Your Home for Autumn

Managing your home takes organization and planning. Consult our checklist to keep all your autumn home maintenance projects on schedule.

- Remove leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Trim trees and bushes so nothing is touching your home.
- Inspect all exterior lighting, replace bulbs and reset timers as needed.
- Service your heating system.
- Test your carbon monoxide and smoke alarms.
- Drain outdoor faucets, hoses and sprinkling systems.



Monitor Your Credit with Free Reports

Credit reporting companies have files on everyone who has applied for a credit card, loan or insurance. The files contain information about where you live, how you pay your bills and whether you have been sued, arrested or have ever filed for bankruptcy. This information is used to make decisions when you apply for credit.

The three consumer credit reporting companies, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, are required to provide a free copy of your credit report once every 12 months at your request. Some financial advisors suggest that you stagger your requests during a 12-month cycle so that you can monitor accuracy and changes.

You can order your free credit report from any of these companies by visiting annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

