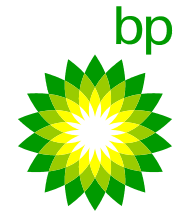


# Fuel News



## IMPROVING FUEL ECONOMY

### INTRODUCTION

Less fuel will be used if the following tips are followed.

### MAINTENANCE

Clogged injectors and fuel filters can lead to incorrect spray patterns and poor combustion. If engines are rough or the engine is blowing smoke then the injectors may be clogged and require an injector cleaner or a service. Regular tuning, stops vehicles wasting fuel.

**Potential savings 5% and more**

### FUELLING

Filling the tank to the top can lead to fuel leaking out through the cap on diesel vehicles or flooding of the carbon canister on petrol vehicles. Do not overfill, it is wasteful.

**Potential savings – not known, could be significant**

### WIND RESISTANCE

Reducing wind resistance can save a lot of fuel, where possible drive with the windows closed, remove roof racks, if carrying a load cover it with a tarpaulin. Ensure that tarpaulins are tight and that loads and vehicles are streamlined.

**Potential savings up to 7%**

### TYRES

Driving on correct tyre pressures can save fuel, check tyre pressure weekly and keep them at the maximum level specified by the manufacture. Wheels that are not aligned correctly waste fuel, have wheel alignment checked every 6 months or if tyres show signs of uneven wear – it will save money. There are fuel efficient tyres – consider fitting them.

**Tyres that are 2 psi below recommended cause 3-5% more fuel to be used**

## **AIR CONDITIONING**

Using the air conditioning on fuel can use up to 20% more fuel. Keep Air conditioning to the minimum. Turn off the air conditioning, demister etc when they have achieved their purpose.

**Potential savings up to 20%**

## **SPEED**

Keep speed constant, steady and use the lowest revs to use the least fuel. Lots of accelerator and brake will use up to 20% more fuel. Anticipate the traffic flow, do not race. Avoid wide variations in throttle, avoid excessive acceleration, excessive braking. Where possible use cruise control as this will maintain a constant speed.

Remember –high gear and low revs- the secret to efficient driving

**Potential savings 20% and more**

## **ROUTE**

Pick the route with the least stops and smoothest continuous run. Plan the trips to minimise fuel.

**Potential savings – more with fewer stops**

## **LOAD**

Do not load the vehicle with stuff that is not required, for trucks and open vehicles cover the load with a tight tarpaulin, tie it down to streamline the load. Avoid part loads; always use full loads to get the maximum benefit from the fuel used.

Some diesel vehicles use the engine to power hydraulic lifts and auxiliaries, consider if this can be replaced by another power source.

Avoid filling petrol tank all the way, to keep weight down fill tank between ½ -3/4.

**Potential savings up to 5% and more**

## **STARTING**

Start driving straight away to warm the engine up to get maximum efficiency. Letting the vehicle sit and idle wastes fuel and causes pollution. The highest fuel consumption is in the first 10 minutes of driving, not using a vehicle for short trips will save a lot of fuel.

**Potential savings – significant**

The following web site provides information on minimising fuel use.

[www.thecarbontrust.co.uk/energy](http://www.thecarbontrust.co.uk/energy)

[www.transportenergy.co.uk](http://www.transportenergy.co.uk)

<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/fuellabel/costs.html>

**For further information, please call the BP Lubricants and Fuel  
Technical Helpline 1300 139 700 local call  
Or visit [www.bp.com.au/fuelnews](http://www.bp.com.au/fuelnews)**

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