

Don't Let Gas Prices Drive You Crazy! Tips to Save Money on Gasoline!

The cost of gasoline is relentlessly pumping hundreds and hundreds of dollars out of family budgets. For many of us gas is a necessity to get from Point A to Point B. While some people can reduce the amount of driving they do, the reality is that gasoline can't be eliminated from our budgets all together. Here are some helpful tips to use less gas, increase your fuel economy, and keep you from draining your wallet.



Plan your trips to avoid backtracking - Is the grocery store on your way home from work, down the street from your gym, and across the road from your daycare center? Create an efficient way to get your errands done without driving all over town. Planning ahead may also be a helpful way to avoid high traffic areas.



Carpooling - Many people have only considered carpooling to and from work. Don't neglect traveling with friends or neighbors on smaller trips. Running errands such as trips to the grocery store and dry cleaners are also good opportunities to car pool.



Park in the shade - Parking in the shade will keep your car cooler inside which means you will need less air conditioning to cool off when you get back in! Remember to use your air conditioning only when you absolutely have to. If you are driving around town try putting your windows down instead and enjoy the fresh air! Air conditioning uses up lots of gas.



Try walking - Whether it's driving from one store to another, driving around looking for that perfect parking spot, or driving to the convenience store down the road, all uses gas. If weather permits, try walking or riding a bike, not only will you use less gas but it is healthier for you too!



Remove any junk in your car - It can be easy to accumulate unnecessary items in your car. Did you know that for every one hundred pounds extra your car carries, your fuel economy goes down approximately two percent!



Keep your maintenance up-to-date - Don't neglect oil changes and make sure that your tires are properly inflated. According to www.fueleconomy.gov tuning up your car can improve gas mileage by four to forty percent depending on how serious the problem is!



Slow down! - It may sound obvious but the faster you drive the more gas your car uses. Traveling at seventy mph versus traveling at fifty-five mph uses about twenty percent more gas. Also avoid accelerating and breaking quickly which can put more stress on your vehicle's engine causing it to use more fuel.



Compare prices - Not all gas stations offer the same price. Shop around before you leave the house! Websites such as www.gasbuddy.com can help you find the cheapest gas in your area. Also, remember to plan your route so you pass the gas station while on your way to another necessary stop.



Avoid Idling - Whether it's warming up your car or sitting in traffic, idling gets zero miles per gallon. Steer clear of rush hour if at all possible and be aware of how long you let your engine run to "warm up".

Want to learn more? Call us for a no-cost consultation about this and other financial topics.

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