

IMPROVE YOUR VEHICLE EFFICIENCY

1. Drive between 45-55 km/h



think.

Drive slow and steady. The faster you go, the more wind resistance your vehicle faces. If you go at speeds above 60 km/h, you waste petrol. Tests on Indian cars prove that you can get up to 40 per cent extra mileage at 45-55 km/h as against 80 km/h.

Remember

Avoid accelerating or decelerating unnecessarily. Avoid banking by anticipating stops and curves well in advance.

Tests show that a reduction in speed leads to no appreciable rise in commuting time. Much less than what most people

2. Keep your engine healthy



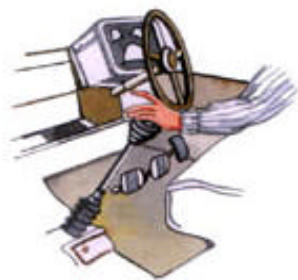
Tests on a large number of cars prove that you can save as much as six per cent by tuning your car regularly. If your engine emits black smoke, has poor pulling power or consumes large quantities of oil, get it checked immediately at a reputed garage. A delay may prove more expensive in terms of petrol and oil as compared to the cost of an overhaul.

Remember

Use of bi-metallic spark plugs saves over 1.5 per cent fuel and reduces exhaust emissions too.

Get your car serviced at every 5,000 km.

3. Drive in the correct gear



Incorrect gear shifting can lead to as much as 20 per cent increase in fuel consumption. Start your car in the first gear. Only if you are in a muddy patch or going downhill, then engage the second gear.

Remember

For city driving, change to a higher gear when you are sure the engine would not struggle. Get into top gear as soon as possible.

Use same gear for uphill and downhill journey. It is advisable to follow the manufacturer's recommendation.

4. Don't wait for your car to warm up



Instead, drive in low gear till the engine warms up. Use choke briefly. That too, only when necessary.

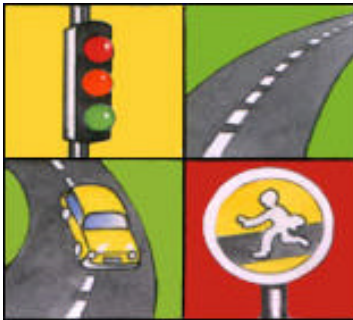
Remember

At 10°C and below, your fuel consumption per kilometre doubles when you make trips of 5 km or less. So combine trips.

Do not park a car so that you have to reverse with a cold engine. This would consume more fuel.

Install engine-heating system (in cold regions) in your car if it does not have one.

5. Good braking habits



Stop-and-go driving wastes fuel. When you slam on the brakes, a lot of useful energy is wasted in the form of heat. A good driver always anticipates stops.

Remember

Test wheels for free rotation when your car is being serviced. Binding of brakes restricts free wheel movement and the engine consumes more petrol in order to overcome resistance.

Check wheel alignment at regular intervals.

6. Keep your foot off the clutch



Use clutch only when you change gears. Riding the clutch causes loss of energy and damages clutch-linings.

Remember

Use your handbrake when you stop on an upgrade. Don't forget to release it when restarting. Don't manipulate the clutch and accelerator to stay stationary because it wastes fuel.

7. Clean air filter regularly



Air filter prevents dust from fouling the engine. Dust causes rapid wear of engine components and increases fuel consumption.

Remember

Cylinder bores wear out 45 times faster in engines without air-cleaners.

Clean air filters at every time-up.

8. Watch your tyre pressure



Under inflated tyres increase rolling resistance, which leads to higher petrol consumption.

Remember

Tests show that a 25 per cent decrease in tyre pressure can cost you five per cent to 10 per cent more on petrol and 25 per cent on tyre life.

Use radial tyres for three per cent to seven per cent economy in fuel, longer tyre life and greater riding comfort.

9. When you stop your car, stop the engine



Always keep your car ready to start. Keep the battery, dynamo, self-starter and fan-belt in good condition. This will ensure a quick start whenever you need it.

Remember

Switch off the engine at stops of over two minutes.

10. Use the recommended grade of oil

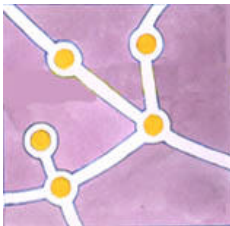


Check the car manual and oil manufacturer's recommendations, before using any particular grade of oil. Always use multi-grade oil equivalent to SPCC/SGCC type for added benefits.

Remember

Engine oil that is thicker than the recommended oil can cause two per cent increase in fuel consumption. Change oil filter along with engine oil.

11. Plan your route



Rush hour, or stop-and-go traffic, can waste fuel excessively. You will get more mileage from each litre if you take a less congested route, even though it is slightly longer.

Remember

Fuel consumption in a highly congested road could be double the normal.

12 Reduce loads



fuel consumption.

Unnecessary loads increase fuel consumption. Do you really need to carry the luggage rack?

Remember

A reduction of weight by 50 kg can lead up to two per cent saving in fuel, when driving in the city. Remember that overhead racks increase wind resistance leading to higher

13. Use a car pool



Look for people who go in the same direction as you. You could share your car and reduce commuting costs.

14. Plan your trips



Before you start on a trip, ask yourself two questions.
Is this trip really essential?
Could I combine this trip with other trips in the same direction?