

Make that Gas Pump Frown



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Introduction

The task of saving gas on your automobile commutes is not necessarily a hard one. The principles all revolve around proper maintenance of your vehicle and driving sensibly and responsibly. Proper maintenance of your vehicle goes beyond the realm of saving gas. By taking care of the car that God allowed you to have, it will take care of you in long years of optimal performance. Driving sensibly will also reduce your risk of being a danger to yourself and to others on the road.

The Tips for saving gas are separated into 4 groups. Tips at the Pump, Tips on the Road, General Maintenance, and Planning. These 4 topics aim to give you the most gas savings by addressing each point that is key in vehicle use.

Rays eBook shop has gathered this information by researching the internet, automobile testing, and searching the best sources for gas savings. The tips that were most effective were recorded and researched further to be explain thoroughly in this eBook. All the information has been gained from reputable sources, and through accurate tests and is accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Disclaimer

Please take caution when applying these tips for the first time. None of the tips below should be used in a hazardous way, or in a situation that could lead to harm or damage.

Rays eBook shop has researched each tip thoroughly and has included tips confirmed by top auto websites and news channels. Rays eBook shop cannot be responsible for any damages incurred through the use of these tips.

Tips At The Pump

1. Buy your right gas.

As we all know there are 3 types of gas. Regular, plus, and premium/supreme. The names may vary but they signify the octane. You'll see numbers such as 87, 89-91, and 91-93. Understanding Octane and choosing the right gas is not a hard task. Octane is the resistance to burning. The higher the octane, the more resistance to burning there is. Performance cars, race cars, and extreme off road cars need the high octane because of the extreme use and demand for performance. The gas in these vehicles need more resistance to burning. Now generally with sedans, minivans, and SUVs they need the gas to have a low resistance to burning because of the decreased demand for performance. When you put premium gas into a car that only needs regular, you do not benefit the car one bit. You could actually hurt the car and clog it up with the carbon deposits that will result from the gas that isn't burnt. Not to mention that you end up spending money on premium gas uselessly.

On older cars from the mid to late 80's the higher octane helps, but since then cars have been using fuel injectors which is a much better system. Joseph Younger from AAA states that only **5 percent** of all cars made are recommended by car makers to use premium gas, yet the US Energy Information Agency Reports that **17 percent** of all gas purchased is premium and mid grade. ¹

I have actually been in a gas station and have two attendants look me in the face, and tell me to always buy premium gas no matter what. With superstitions about gas mileage and power floating around, along with lies, the best way to find out the required octane level is in your car's manual. The engineers that designed your car and engine know what makes it run best. Search your owners manual, or check an online version of it to get the right fuel grade. In the end, the only person you help by buying premium when you don't need is the oil company.

2. Don't Overfill your tank

When at the pump, do not over fill your tank. Your car is designed to not take any more gas once it's full. At the first click of the pump, just stop. When you overfill your tank, the excess amount just ends up spilling out of the tank unto the ground. This means it's a complete waste. Your tank needs room for gas to expand when it is heated. If there is no room for it to expand, then the excess gas will just spill out. In some states, the pumps have automatic recovery systems installed to recover the excess gas that you put into your car. There is no need to ever try to overfill your tank.

3. Don't get gas at pumps while a fuel truck is filling the station.

It has been reported that the refueling of a gas station stirs up the particles, debris, and rust from the bottom of the tank. These substances can get mixed in with fuel and clog up your fuel filter. These particles can lead to efficiency problems with your car. Some stations are equipped with filters, while some or not. In the unlikely event that a refueling truck is in the station, just come again later. Or visit another gas station close to your route. It's in your best interest.

Tips on the road

4. Slow down!

One of the biggest factors in how much gas is consumed is your speed. The faster you drive, the more gas is consumed. If you travel 100 miles going at 70 MPH, and 100 miles going at 60 MPH, you save more gas going at 60 MPH. According to fueleconomy.gov, fuel economy takes a drastic nose dive when you exceed 60MPH². Schoen, from MSNBC confirms that 7% to 23% of gas consumption can be saved by reducing your speed to 60MPH³. So in the short run, the trip might take you a little bit longer, but hey, it saves you a lot of money. So please, slow down. In addition to saving gas, its a lot safer to slow down. Who wants a ticket anyway?

The only trade off with driving slower is a longer trip time. The chart below shows the approximate time of a **30 mile** trip going at various speeds with traffic moving well.

Speed	Time of trip
75 MPH	24 Minutes
70 MPH	26 Minutes
65 MPH	28 Minutes
60 MPH	30 Minutes

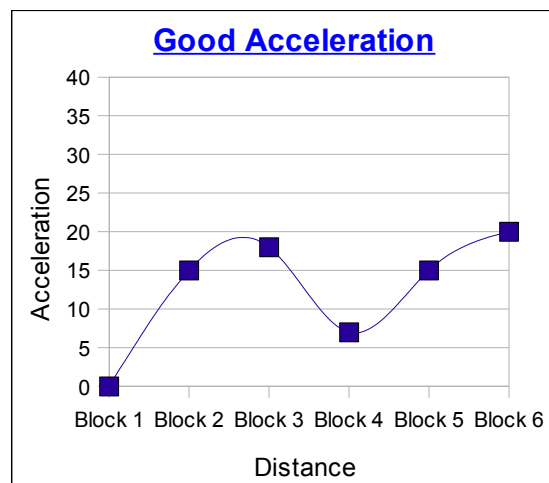
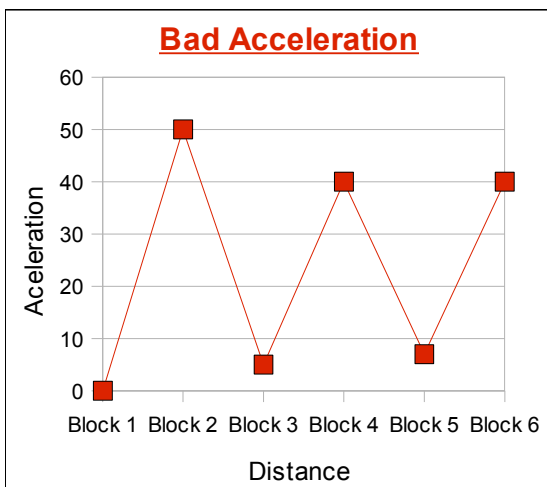
Making your trip take 6 minutes longer from 75 to 60, is well worth the 7 – 23 percent gas savings. To calculate your travel time, just divide your speed by your distance, and then multiply that answer by 60. That will tell you how long your trip will take under good traffic.

Interestingly enough, a nationwide 55 mph speed limit was imposed in the USA in 1974 because of an oil crisis. The shortage of oil for the country was a catalyst to limiting the highway speed of the nation to save gas. Once the gas crisis was over,

the speed law was then lifted⁴. Speed is such a key factor in gas consumption that an entire nation saved in their time of crisis by limiting speed.

5. Check your acceleration!

When driving in the city, your goal is to accelerate as slowly as possible, and not have the need to brake sharply. When you accelerate at a high rate, you have the potential to travel maybe 2 or 3 blocks. If during this distance you have to stop because of a red light then you end up only traveling 1 block, while the energy sufficient to travel 2 or 3 blocks is consumed. So the goal is not to floor the gas, but to instead accelerate slowly and decelerate as slowly as possible. For example, you never speed up to a red light, yellow light or to a traffic jam, because you cut yourself short. You instead just approach slowly. When you do it this way, you end up saving gas, and lengthening the life of your brakes, because there is less demand on them.



The charts above show how your acceleration and deceleration should be. Speeding up to pass some slow poke in your way, takes a big bite out of your pocket. Fueleconomy.gov indicated that 5% to 33% of gas can be saved based on how you drive ². Imagine two identical cars with the same amount of gas making the same trip. One car driving steadily, safely, accelerating slowly, and maintaining a low speed. While the other switches lanes, floors the gas pedals, slams on the brakes constantly, the reckless driver could end up using 33% percent more gas. Thats like only being able to travel 66 miles, while using enough gas to travel 100 miles. It's short changing yourself. That means unless you have to accelerate quickly, for instance merging unto the highway, there is no need to have a heavy

foot on the gas pedal.

6. User overdrive gears

Overdrive is like a 4th or 5th gear of shifting. When shifting into overdrive it is similar to putting your car into top gear. It allows you to maintain a high speed, but slow down the RPMs (Revolutions per minute) of your engine. This makes your engine work less. When your engine works less, you save on engine wear and on gas consumption. To use overdrive, hit your desired speed then turn it on, and you're good to go.

Over drive should only be used on highways. It is designed for speeds over 40 in some cars. On a local road it can harm your engine. In addition, overdrive should not be used when going up hills.

When used the right way Over drive can be a real asset to fuel efficiency. see your car owners manual for more information.

7. Cruise control

Use this on the highways to maintain a constant speed. In most cases this will actually save you gas. It eliminates the accelerating and decelerating and habits of just going too fast. Just slip it into a nice speed, high 50's or maybe low 60s MPH like we mentioned earlier, and enjoy the savings. An added bonus is that acceleration can be done in small increments using cruise control, that means you get to accelerate as slowly as possible and save even more gas. More gas is needed to accelerate, so if you can 'cruise' at a constant speed you save more. Start 'cruising' on the highway today. Edmunds.com confirms that it can save you up to 14% of gas consumption.

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