

## 5 Tips for Better Fuel Economy



Gas prices are skyrocketing again. We just did the super high prices thing a couple of years ago, and here we are again. This time, it might actually get worse, and, if that's not bad enough, it might stay there for a while. Ugh. But there are a few things you can do to make sure your money – and you – go as far as possible, so we thought we'd share five tips for better fuel economy.

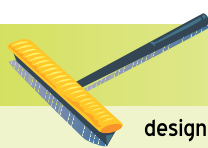
- 1 **Take It Easy** – Driving aggressively, rapid/hard starts and stops, and even speeding all eat up expensive gasoline. According to government quoted statistics, driving like that can lower your vehicle's gas mileage by as much as 33% on the highway and 5% in town.
- 2 **Watch Your Speed** – Besides being unsafe, speeding is a major cause of fuel usage. Beyond the impact mentioned in the statistic above, every 5 MPH you travel over 60 MPH is costing you an extra \$0.24 per gallon of gas. Basically, you're using more gas than you need to travel each mile.

- 3 **Don't Overload** – When you're packing for a trip, don't bring anything you don't need for the trip or for safety along the way. Extra weight means extra work for your vehicle, and it will use more fuel to move the extra pounds. In fact, on average every 100 pounds of extra weight reduces your mileage per gallon by roughly 2% (based on percentages relative to vehicle size, weight, design, etc.). So if you don't need it, take it out.
- 4 **Turn It Off When Not Moving** – It might seem beyond obvious, but if your car is idling and not moving, it's using gas and yet not going anywhere. This translates to ZERO miles per gallon. Consider shutting it off if you're going to be sitting for a while.
- 5 **Have a Pre-Trip Inspection** – Before you hit the road, one of the best ways to make sure you are getting the most out of that expensive gas you are buying is make sure your vehicle is running right. This means all the filters are clean, the oil and other fluids are in good

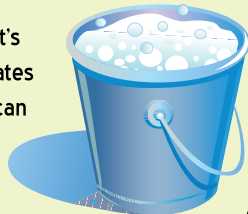
and all major systems and components are working as they should. Let us perform a thorough inspection on your vehicle before your travel begins. A bit of time now can save you a fortune in fuel and prevent frustration down the road. Give us a call or stop by and make an appointment today.



## Protect Your Paint



Summer is hard on the finish on your car, truck or SUV. The sun's UV rays pulverize paint, especially colors like red, black and white. Another element that can be troublesome for paint is water, which at first thought might seem more like a winter issue than a summer one. But the reality is that there are summer showers, summer sprinklers blowing mist across lawns at parked cars and, of course, there is increased car wash activity. So, despite the heat, there is a lot of water in play during the summer. What's worse, in summer water evaporates fast, and when that happens it can leave behind acidity that eats away at the paint.



The paint on your car isn't only there to make it look good. Paint is what keeps all that water and acidity, not to mention the

extremes of weather, from the metal underneath. That's why taking good care of your vehicle's finish is important. That starts with regular wash and wax. To begin, use the right products. Some people use dish soap. This can be a bad idea, as those items are not

designed for vehicle surfaces, and some of them have chemicals that can actually hurt the finish over time. There are lots of affordable automotive cleaning products available on the market today, and you can find them in a variety of retail stores and online.

When you're done, make sure you dry it right. It seems simple, but drying the vehicle quickly after washing will prevent spots and evaporation that can leave mineral deposits or acidic residue behind. A trick for drying effectively is to wash in a shady area, out of the direct sun which can make it impossible to dry fast enough to stay ahead of evaporation. Another is to wash during the cooler parts of the day. Lastly, dry with the right kind of towel. A soft towel (not an old threadbare one) or a chamois will do well and not leave streaks behind.

Once it's nice and clean and dry, a good coat of wax or paint sealant will add an extra layer of protection and make your vehicle shine! Doing a good job protecting your paint will also work to protect your investment. When you get to the point where you want to sell your car, you'll get a whole lot more for it if it still looks good.



## Top Ramen Salad

(serves 8 as a side dish, 6 as an entree)

### Ingredients:

#### Salad

- 1 head (or 1 pkg.) shredded cabbage
- 1 cup toasted almonds, sliced
- 3 tbsp. toasted sesame seeds
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1 pkg. chicken-flavored Top Ramen
- Optional: 1/2-1/4 lb. shredded chicken, beef or pork strips, or bay shrimp

#### Dressing

- Contents of Top Ramen seasoning packet
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 tbsp. vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. salt

### Directions:

- Crush Top Ramen noodles and add to cabbage, onions, seeds and nuts
- Mix and pour dressing into salad and toss thoroughly to coat
- Refrigerate 2 hours before serving



## 10 Emergency Items to Bring on Your Summer Trip



The best way to avoid road trip trouble is to plan ahead. A vehicle inspection is an excellent idea, but objects in the road, fender benders, and just plain bad luck are a part of life. Fortunately, advanced planning goes a long way toward keeping little problems from getting big:

- 1 Water - Dehydration is not fun.
- 2 Engine coolant - A gallon of the proper blend (we can help if you're not sure).
- 3 Engine oil - A quart or two of oil is always good to have.
- 4 Camera - In case of a fender bender, document damage to both cars.
- 5 Blanket - The road is hot if you have to change a tire, and even the desert gets cold at night.
- 6 Hats, sunglasses and sunscreen - In case you get stuck outside.
- 7 Flashlight - Have extra batteries too.
- 8 First Aid Kit - Hopefully you won't need it, but better to be prepared.
- 9 Cell phone - Obvious, but we're putting it on the list anyway.
- 10 Toilet paper - More obvious than number 9.

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