

ROAD RANGER.....SMART DRIVING TIPS

With gasoline and diesel prices soaring, being a smart driver will save you money. Here are some quick tips to help you raise your mileage and lower your costs.

Maintain your vehicle.....regular maintenance will catch small problems before they become big problems. Worn spark plugs...dragging brakes....dirty air filters will rob you of mileage. A professional maintenance program will successfully prevent minor issues from becoming major problems and will put you on the right road to fuel-efficient driving.

Inflation is Good....Keep tires properly inflated and aligned. Low pressure will reduce fuel economy..

Junk in the Trunk...Extra weight requires more energy to transport it. Clean the trunk of unnecessary items. An additional hundred pounds will reduce fuel economy by 2%.

Plan Ahead.....A good travel plan will combine errands to reduce total miles traveled. If you are uncertain of the location of your destination, ask directions. Getting lost will waste fuel and decrease your effective mileage per gallon.

Cruise in Confidence....Use cruise control on the highway to eliminate ‘speed creep’ and other fuel-consuming changes in speed. A constant speed can improve fuel economy by as much as 4 to5%

Use a Little Tenderness....Be gentle with the pedals. Jackrabbit acceleration and gut-wrenching stops might be spectacular, but they are a significant drain on your fuel economy. Using a more relaxed, laid back style can improve mileage per gallon by as much as 10 to 15%

The Speed Trap.....At speeds over 60 mph, fuel mileage begins to suffer. Give yourself a little extra time and drive a bit slower. You will save money in the long run.

To Air or Not.....Air conditioning allows you to choose your environment. At low speeds such as experienced in city driving and while using air conditioning, additional energy is required to operate your vehicle. Turn off the air, open the windows and enjoy the fresh air. On the highway, open windows can substantially increase the drag on your car. So at high speeds, close the windows, turn on the air, and enjoy the ride.

Your Choice, Your Friends....If you have more than one vehicle, drive the one that gets the best mileage per gallon if possible. Can you take advantage of carpooling?

This could cut your car fuel costs in half. In some urban areas, carpoolers can even travel in special lanes that save time.

Get the Right Grade....Buying the correct gasoline will save you money. Consult your owner's manual for the octane recommendation. Once your engine's octane requirements are met, additional octane is unnecessary.