

Mileage Tips from Sandpiper Import Service

Monitor your mileage, check at least three tanks in succession to even out filling inconsistencies.

Ever notice how frequently you pay an even dollar amount although this should only happen once in every 100 fill-ups.

Buy a tire pressure gauge and use it.

It's cheap and easy. We know it can be hard to find compressed air, so consider an inexpensive compressor; these are available from \$12 to \$60.

Inflate tires to at least the pressure on the tire pressure placard which is usually in the driver's door jamb. Experiment with higher pressures but don't exceed the maximum pressure shown on the tire sidewall.

Try riding your bike with low tires and you'll get an idea of how important rolling resistance can be.

When buying new tires stick to manufacturer's recommendations, don't buy tires that are oversize, wide, or have aggressive tread designs.

Again the bike analogy is helpful; compare a mountain bike to a road bike with high pressure tires.

When changing your oil, use the lowest viscosity approved by the car's manufacturer for current ambient temperatures.

Most newer cars use 5W-30, or even 0W-20, using 10W-30 in these vehicles can really cut fuel economy.

Remove external accessories like roof racks when not in use.

Auto manufacturers have gone to great lengths to reduce wind resistance and the effect of roof racks at highway speeds can be dramatic.

If weather conditions permit, turn off your headlights during daytime driving.

If you visit The Science Factory try out the display illustrating the amount of effort necessary to illuminate an incandescent light bulb. Most cars use 110W on low beams, daytime driving lights tend to be less.

Keep your car maintained, dirty air filters and worn ignition parts can contribute to poor fuel economy.

Don't ignore a check engine light, this is a sign your car's on board diagnostic system has sensed a serious fault.

Use the lowest octane fuel your car can operate on without pinging.

Avoid fuel with large proportions of ethanol, it has lower caloric content and will reduce mileage.

Combine trips

Accelerate slowly.

Lower your cruising speed.

Ride the bus, your bike, or walk.