

# A simple guide to smarter driving

Save up to  
**£250**  
a year

## More miles for your money

You don't have to get rid of your car or even change it to stop wasting fuel. By developing a smarter driving style and with some simple car maintenance, you can cut the fuel you burn and save up to £250 every year.

### The technical bit

When you drive, your car burns fuel and produces carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) – a harmful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. The more fuel your car burns the more money you'll spend and the more CO<sub>2</sub> you'll produce.

Smarter driving involves using your gears, acceleration and anticipation to improve your miles per gallon (MPG). Smarter preparation before you set off can also make a big difference.

### Driving your car the smart way can:

- save you money on fuel
- cut your CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- reduce wear and tear on your car
- help you enjoy safer, less stressful journeys.

## Give it a whirl

Not convinced you can improve your car's MPG? Follow our guide to smarter driving and see for yourself. The fuel calculator on the back of this factsheet will help you calculate your MPG.

### Before you set off

- **Reduce drag**  
Drive only with the accessories you need. Roof racks, bike carriers and roof boxes have a big effect on your car's aerodynamics and reduce fuel efficiency.
- **Pump up your tyres**  
Under-inflated tyres are dangerous, increase fuel consumption and wear out quicker. Check your tyre pressure once a week. Look in your car manual to find out the correct tyre pressure and remember that a car with a heavier load may need different air pressure in the tyres.
- **Lighten the load**  
Clutter in your boot is an extra drain on your engine. Removing it can reduce your fuel consumption.
- **Plan ahead**  
Plan your journeys to avoid congestion and road works, and to make sure you don't waste fuel or time getting lost!
- **Keep it long**  
Use other forms of transport for short journeys, if you can. Using a car for short journeys uses more fuel per mile.



Don't let fuel prices drive you round the bend! Try some smarter driving tips next time you're behind the wheel.



**energy saving trust**  
Keep up the good work



## Behind the wheel

- **Check your revs**

When you accelerate, change up a gear early. Between 2,000 and 2,500 rpm is ideal.

- **Watch your speed**

Faster speeds increase fuel consumption. Always drive within the speed limit for a legal, more fuel efficient and safer journey.

- **Read the road**

Anticipate road conditions and drive smoothly, avoiding last minute braking and sharp acceleration.

- **Step off the accelerator**

Stay in gear but take your foot off the accelerator as early as possible when approaching a red light or roundabout. This cuts fuel flow to the engine and you are driving for free while still making progress.

- **Drive off from cold**

Modern cars are designed to drive off straightaway. Warming up the engine just wastes fuel.

- **Air conditioning**

Use air conditioning only when you really need it. However, at fast speeds air conditioning on low is better than opening a window, as this increases wind resistance and fuel consumption.

- **Switch it off**

Modern cars use hardly any extra fuel when they're restarted. So if you're going to be stationary for more than a minute or two, turn your engine off. But never turn your engine off when your car is moving.

## Ask the experts

The Energy Saving Trust can give you free, impartial advice on how to stop wasting fuel and money on travel.

### Our expert team can:

- help you choose the right car for you
- tell you how to develop your driving technique further
- assist with journey planning
- show you how to use your car less without compromising your lifestyle.

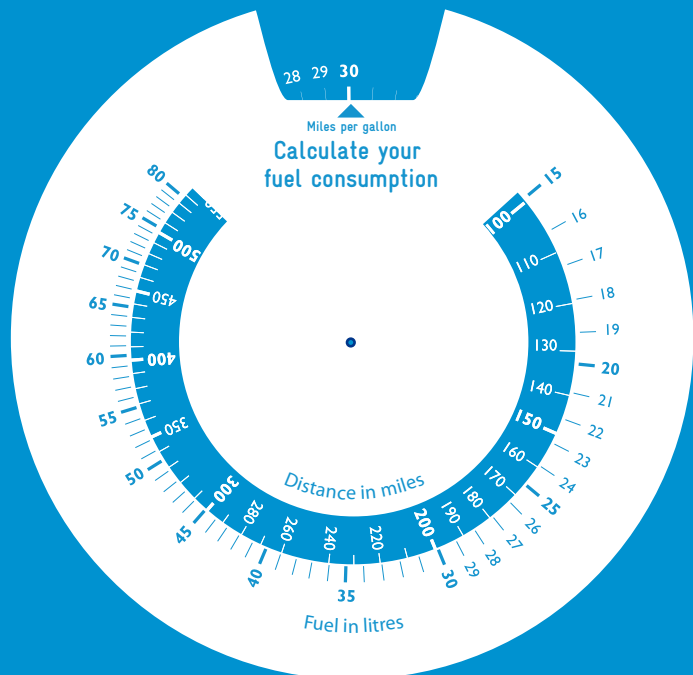
\* Start seeing the benefits of smarter driving today. Visit [energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk) or call 0800 512 012.

## Calculate your fuel consumption

### How to use the calculator:

1. Fill your tank to the brim and set your trip-meter to zero.
2. When you next need to fill your tank, note how much fuel you have used (litres) and how far you have driven (miles).
3. Turn the dial to line up the litres of fuel used (outer scale) with the miles you've driven (inner scale).
4. Follow the arrow to find out your fuel consumption in miles per gallon.

The accuracy of this calculator improves the further you have travelled so readings start from 100 miles.



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