

Fuel-Saving Tips

(NAPSA)—Though gas prices are high, they don't have to break the bank. By following this advice from car experts, you can still save a few dollars whenever you might be behind the wheel:

- Slow down. Driving at 55 mph instead of 75 can improve gas mileage 10 mpg.
- Avoid rooftop carriers, which can increase fuel consumption 6 mpg.
- Drive smoothly. Hard acceleration and braking can reduce fuel economy by about 20 percent.

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- Shut down when stopped more than 30 seconds. An idling car gets zero mpg.

- Don't overlook the tires. Underinflated tires waste gas and wear quickly. Use a tire gauge once a month to check that they are inflated to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended pressure.

- Don't spend extra on premium gas unless your vehicle requires it. Most vehicles run fine on regular or midgrade.

- Don't waste money on gadgets that claim to improve fuel economy. Consumer Reports has tested several and hasn't found any that met its claims.

- On road trips, plan your route in advance to avoid getting lost. Consider buying a GPS unit that can quickly help you find gas stations, hotels, ATMs and more.

See consumerreports.org/fuel online for more fuel-saving information.