



# Home Owner News

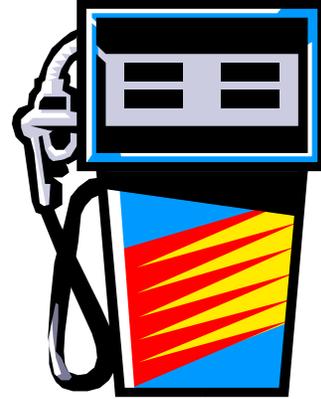


Bill Boeckelman, "The World's Greatest Realtor"

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## Saving Money At The Pump

### *Fuel Economy ... Remember That Issue?*



With gasoline prices approaching record highs, it's time to think about ways to squeeze a few extra miles out of each gasoline dollar. By simply exercising a little common sense, the impact of higher gasoline prices on your lifestyle can be limited. Assuming each "fill-up" costs approximately \$40, by striving to eliminate 1 or 2 fill-ups each month, you could possibly save \$480 - \$960 per year per vehicle.

### Sensible Gasoline Saving Tips

**Use regular gasoline.** Only about 5% of the cars sold in the United States require premium gasoline. Check your owner's manual for the manufacturer's octane recommendation. Premium gasoline does not improve performance or burn cleaner than regular gasoline. Don't be seduced into a "status gasoline" or "designer gasoline" mentality. Using premium gasoline is, simply, a waste of money for most car owners.

**Keep your tires inflated to the proper pressure.** Properly inflated tires provide less road resistance and improve fuel efficiency. Check your owner's manual for the correct tire pressure for your tires. Use a tire pressure gauge to check the tire pressure regularly. Tire pressure changes with temperature, so tires inflated properly for 90 degree weather may not be inflated properly on 70 degree days.

**Keep your engine tuned.** Change the oil, clean/change all filters and get tune-ups according to the owner's manual.

**Check wheel alignment & balancing.**

**Remove excess weight** from the trunk or inside the car.

**Reduce air drag.** Remove roof racks & luggage carriers when not in use. In the winter, remove snow & icicles from the car before driving. When driving "at highway speeds", drive with the windows closed. The drag created by open windows at high speeds wastes fuel. At highway speeds, driving with the windows closed and the air conditioner on, uses less fuel than driving with the windows open.

**Avoid idling.** Your "fuel efficiency" when idling is ZERO miles per gallon. A "super double NO NO" is idling in your car with

the air conditioner running.

**Avoid prolonged warm-ups** of the engine. Even on cold mornings, 35 to 45 seconds is plenty of time.

**Avoid revving the engine**, especially just before shutting off the ignition.

**Avoid "jack rabbit" starts.** Accelerate & decelerate conservatively. Visualize a cup of water on your dashboard and drive as if you're trying avoid spilling it.

When driving on the highway, **drive at "steady speeds"**. Use the cruise control if your car is equipped with it.

When driving on the highway, **drive at the speed limit**. High speed driving wastes fuel.

**Don't drive with left foot on the brake pedal.** The slightest pressure on the brake pedal will create mechanical drag and increases fuel usage.

**Common sense tip:** Drive less. Whenever possible, try walking, biking, carpooling, mass transit, etc. Try to plan or schedule your errands so that you don't have to make two trips.

**Ridiculous Super Tightwad Tip #1:** Gasoline expands & contracts with changes in temperature. Consequently, you get "more product" in a gallon of cold gasoline than in a gallon of warm gasoline. If possible, try to "fill-up" on cold days or early in the morning when the gasoline in the storage tanks might be cooler.

**Ridiculous Super Tightwad Tip #2:** Make sure the gasoline in the hose at the gasoline pump goes into your tank. There's always a small amount of gasoline trapped in the low spot or curved portion of the rubber hose when the pump clicks off. Make sure the gas from the low spot drains into your tank.

