



Technical Tip: Fact or Myth?

Increase fuel mileage from those miracle additives !

A Statement about fuel economy:

As gasoline prices increase, all budgets have been significantly impacted resulting in a growing concern over fuel consumption and how to achieve maximum fuel economy.

GM is presently proud to offer 20 cars in the U.S. with EPA highway estimates of at least 30 mpg. The information below contains reasonable and prudent advice for your fleet vehicles and how to get the most from every gallon of gas.

The information below is presented in two, hopefully easy to understand sections:

What Not To Do: *Engine and Fuel Additives, Alternate Fuels, and "Miracle" Products.*

What to Do: *Maximizing Fuel Economy/Minimizing Costs*

WHAT NOT TO DO, fuel additives:

Various unproven products to improve vehicle fuel economy have been reported ranging from magnets that align molecules to chemical combustion improvers.

Most products claiming to provide benefits are based on unsubstantiated claims. Those that do present "scientific" results generally either have too little supporting data to be conclusive, or have not conducted experiments in a controlled fashion, or cannot be substantiated by anyone else but the product's manufacturer.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission summarizes results for products tested by the federal government at;

www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/autos/gasave.htm.

A review of the list shows that the majority did not work, and for those that showed some effect, the benefit was too small to be cost effective.

One more recent poor idea to improve fuel economy that **should not be** attempted is to blend either kerosene or diesel fuel into gasoline. Why? Both kerosene and diesel fuel are distillate fuels meant for use in compression ignition engines, not spark ignition engines. They have very low octane and since they are heavier (higher density) than gasoline, they will cause heavy engine deposits and degradation of engine oil.

Chemicals that are normally used as solvents also **should not be used**. These include acetone, ketones, and methanol. These solvents can be incompatible with your vehicles rubber or sealing components, and may dissolve the vehicle's paint finish. In the case of methanol, corrosion of metal parts in the fuel system also may occur.

What Not To Do, engine oil additives: GM Vehicles DO NOT require additional engine oil additives. Some additives may cause harmful effects to the internal seals and additionally void the terms of your vehicles New Car Warranty.

WHAT TO DO: Maximizing Fuel Economy/Minimizing Costs

The best fuel economy possible is the direct result of proper maintenance and good driving habits. Listed below are GM's recommendations to achieve the best mileage possible. The first group are things to consider for your vehicle, while the second are tips relating to your driving habits.

Vehicle Considerations:

Tire Pressure - One of the major contributors to poor fuel economy are under inflated tires. Tires low on pressure create drag that the vehicle's powertrain must overcome, wasting dollars in fuel. Always keep your tires inflated to the proper pressure as shown on the vehicle placard, mounted on your left front door sill. This not only serves to increase gas mileage but cuts down on tire wear, further decreasing your costs per mile.

Air Filter - A vehicle that has a dirty air filter can't efficiently draw air into the engine. This restriction forces the engine to expend energy to "breathe" wasting fuel in the process. ***Change recommendations are found in your vehicle Owner's Manual. (refer to previous monthly Tech-Tip's posted on GMFLEET.com)***

Use the Recommended Grade (Octane) Fuel . Purchasing higher than required octane fuel is a waste of money. Using higher octane fuels in a vehicle that only required regular unleaded fuel will neither increase performance nor improve gas mileage. In all cases refer to your owners manual and **ONLY** use the octane rated fuel recommended for your vehicle.

Previous Technical Tip, available on www.GMFLEET.com

Changes in driving habits:

Slow down, drive smoothly - Avoid quick/full throttle acceleration from a standstill in town and high cruising speeds on the interstates. While the optimum MPG for highway cruising speed varies from vehicle to vehicle, faster is almost always worse. If your vehicle is equipped with a Driver Information Center that displays Instant Fuel Economy, select that read out and vary your cruising speed while on the highway. The display will change continuously with uphill and downhill sections but you should quickly be able to identify on level ground the speed range that your vehicle does the best in.

Empty your trunk - Avoid leaving unnecessary items in your trunk. It takes power to move increased weight and that means more gasoline consumption and reduced performance. While the change may be slight, multiplied by thousands of miles, it all adds up.

Avoid extended idling - There is no need to idle your engine till it reaches operating temperature as in the past. Idling wastes fuel.

Combine trips - Your vehicle uses much more fuel when the engine is cold. This is especially true in the winter months when the engine will take the longest to warm up. Combine errands or trips so that the vehicle only needs to warm up once to encompass many different stops.

Happy, safe and increasingly important “economical motoring.”

Now for this month’s technical tip quiz.

A previously circulated Technical Tip featured seven often conducted maintenance expenses that were titled “Unnecessary Maintenance Expenses”, can you name three?

The third correct answer will be this month’s highly sought after recipient of the infamous prize.

Congratulations goes to Richard G. Baron, Connecticut Department of Transportation for answering last month’s technical tip quiz correctly.

Thank you,

Your GM Fleet Service Team.

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