

SMART DRIVING TIPS FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE VEHICLES*

FIRST: SMART DRIVING IS SAFER DRIVING. As a smart driver, conducting smooth acceleration/deceleration, avoiding tailgating, and complying with speed limits helps make you more aware of the flow of traffic around and ahead of you, allowing more reaction time to perform evasive maneuvers.

ACCELERATE AND BRAKE SMOOTHLY:

Save fuel and maintenance costs. Fast starts, weaving in traffic and hard braking does the opposite. **Watch for lights that turn red ahead!** Stop accelerating

and coast to them (in gear) – save fuel and brakes, and maybe the light will turn green before you get there, maintaining some vehicle momentum

to save more fuel. Further, let's say, on average, five red lights are encountered daily. With this smart practice, 75¢ can be saved: five nickels in fuel; five dimes in brake wear – over 300 days of driving in a year, \$225 can be saved!



ONE DAY=75¢ SAVED



300 DAYS=\$225 SAVED

Fuel Economy Benefit: 10%–40%

WATCH YOUR SPEED: Avoid tailgating. Aim for a constant speed – aggressively pumping accelerator is inefficient driving. At highway speeds, drive 60–65 miles per hour to save fuel. Use cruise control whenever possible on the highway to maintain even speed and conserve fuel.



Fuel Economy Benefit: 7%–14%

PARKED IDLING IN VT is restricted by law:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/23/013/01110> In winter, generally limit warmups to 30 seconds (defrosting must



be adequate) – driving is best way to warmup. **NOTE:** 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than shutting off and restarting.

Fuel Economy Benefit: save .4 gal/hr

ADDITIONAL SMART DRIVING TIPS

TIRES: Keep tires properly inflated. Under-inflated tires increase rolling resistance, reducing fuel economy by 3–4%. They also wear more rapidly and can be a safety hazard.

MAINTENANCE: Perform engine tune-ups to keep vehicle running efficiently. Keep wheels aligned to avoid premature wear and fuel waste. Replace air filters as recommended.

WEIGHT: Unneed items in trunk and on roof—including aerodynamic drag factor—makes engine work harder, reducing fuel economy by 1–17%.

MINIMIZE A/C: Use heating and air conditioning selectively to reduce the load on engine. Decreasing A/C usage in hotter temperatures can save 10–15 percent of fuel.

*Many of these tips are applicable to plug-in vehicles

For a detailed guide on smart driving tips and green driving apps, visit:

<http://greendrivingamerica.org/smart-driving-tips.html>