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Smarter Driving Tips

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Petrol/Diesel prices on the up? Get more miles to the gallon, and save money on fuel costs, with our top tips for fuel-efficient driving:

1. Drive smoothly

Anticipate what's happening ahead to avoid unnecessary braking or acceleration. Keep further from the vehicle in front so that you need to use the brakes less.

2. Shift up early

When accelerating, shift to a higher gear early, usually between 2,000-2,500 rpm.

3. Keep it steady

Maintain a steady speed, using the highest gear possible. Abrupt starts and stops waste fuel. Avoid excessive speeds: driving at 80mph uses 15% more fuel than driving at 70mph.

4. Start moving as soon as possible

A cold engine uses much more fuel. A car warms up faster when it is moving, so drive off as soon as possible after starting the engine.

5. Switch off

When you park or stop off the road, switch off the engine immediately. Sitting with the engine running burns fuel and wastes money.

6. Use the handbrake, not the clutch

Use the handbrake when you're stationary and waiting to move away. Using the clutch adds to wear and tear and wastes fuel.

7. Pump up

Not only are under-inflated tyres dangerous, but they increase fuel consumption.

8. Lose some weight

Extra weight in your car means extra fuel to get you moving.

9. Switch off any unnecessary electricals

Air conditioning and window heaters use up extra fuel, so turn them off when they're not needed!

10. Stay relaxed

Take it easy! Allow yourself a few extra minutes for your journey and enjoy a much less stressful time, rather than having to hurry and drive in an uneconomical way.













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