

Greener driving - limit your environmental impact when driving

The way you drive your car will affect how much fuel you use and the amount of emissions your car produces. You can reduce emissions and of course save money by following the tips below:

- Drive smoothly to reduce fuel consumption - check the road ahead, anticipate traffic and avoid harsh acceleration and braking.
- Change to a higher gear at the right time - shift up at 2500rpm for petrol cars and 2000rpm for diesel cars. A vehicle travelling at 37mph in third gear uses 25% more fuel than it would at the same speed in fifth gear.
- Switch your engine off if you know you won't be moving for a while.
- Check your tyre pressures regularly - under-inflated tyres can increase your fuel consumption by up to 3%.
- Stick to the speed limits - at 70mph you could be using up to 30% more fuel than at 50mph.
- Remove unnecessary weight and roof racks - they increase the weight and air resistance so they increase the amount of fuel you use.
- Air conditioning and other on-board electrical devices (like mobile phone chargers) increase fuel consumption, so only use them when necessary.
- Share your car journeys. The average British car has 1.2 passengers. If two car drivers shared a car they could reduce their overall pollution by 60%.
- Keep your car well maintained, as this will improve its performance and limit fuel consumption.

Source: www.direct.gov.uk and www.theaa.com