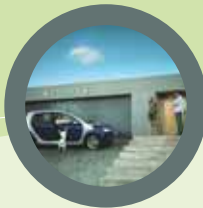


Plan your trips

The best way to cut fuel costs is to drive less. Research has shown that up to half of all car trips can be replaced easily by walking, cycling or using public transport.

You can make smarter use of your car simply by planning your trips.

- Use nearby shops and avoid unnecessary longer trips.
- Walk or cycle for local trips, such as going to school, the video shop, deli or supermarket. Often it is faster than you realise and the exercise is also good for you.
- Cycling five to ten kilometres (15 to 30 minutes) to work each day will keep you fit for life.
- Do as many tasks as possible in a row. Combining trips usually means the car travels a shorter distance; and a warm engine is more efficient than a cold one.
- If public transport is an option, use it for longer trips, particularly if parking may be difficult.
- Car-pool or share a ride to work. It might also save on parking costs.
- Make a phone call or use the Internet instead of driving all over town looking for something.
- Plan your trips to avoid congested areas or peak hour traffic.



Three easy steps to start saving

A medium sized car costs around \$2,000 in fuel each year. A smart car user can easily save 30 per cent (\$600). Start by taking these three easy steps:

1. Car-pool or take an alternative to the car a couple of times a week.
2. Use closer shops and combine trips.
3. Use a fuel-efficient driving style.



Living Smart

Smarter use of your car

Reducing your fuel costs



Further information

This brochure summarises ways you can reduce the amount of fuel you use. You will find more information to help you walk, cycle or choose public transport for some of your trips online at: www.dpi.wa.gov.au/travelsmart

Department for Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box C102
Perth WA 6839
Speak to a TravelSmart Officer
Phone: (08) 9216 8000 Fax: (08) 9216 8497
Email: TravelSmart@dpi.wa.gov.au

RAC

Website: rac.com.au
Phone: 13 17 03
Email: advocacy@rac.com.au

Department of Environment and Conservation

Website: www.dec.wa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 6364 6500

This document can be provided in alternative formats
– please contact the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.
TS 089-08-07



Department of Environment and Conservation
Department for Planning and Infrastructure

Supported by RAC



Smarter use of your car could save you \$600 or more a year.

Cars are expensive to own and run. Western Australian households spend 16 per cent of their weekly expenditure on their vehicles. Rising fuel prices mean higher running costs, but these can be reduced with some clever thinking about:

- the way you drive;
- how you maintain your vehicle;
- the vehicle you use; and
- how often you need to use it.

Here are some tips, which could save you fuel and money, improve your health and help the environment.

The way you drive

Fuel consumption can be cut by up to 30 per cent simply by accelerating gently and cruising at a steady speed. This is more fuel-efficient than accelerating rapidly and braking abruptly.

Use the best gear

The engine runs most efficiently when it is revving at between 1500 and 2500 rpm. Change to a higher gear sooner, rather than later, to keep it within this range. Automatic transmissions will shift up more quickly and smoothly if you ease back on the accelerator once the car gathers momentum.



Reduce idling

Switch off the engine when you are parked and waiting, even for a minute. Restarting the engine uses less fuel than idling.

The best vehicle speeds

Driving at 50 kilometres per hour on local roads is safer and more fuel-efficient. Fuel use increases dramatically at speeds over 90 kilometres per hour. For example, over the same distance you'll use up to 10 per cent more fuel driving at 100 kilometres per hour, and up to 25 per cent more at 110 kilometres per hour.



Avoid using the air conditioner

Use the air conditioner sparingly as it can increase fuel consumption by more than ten per cent. It is least efficient on short trips.

Travel light and minimise drag

Reducing loads and lowering wind resistance will cut fuel use by up to five per cent.

- Remove roof racks, bull bars and external sun visors if they are not needed.
- Avoid driving with windows down when travelling at speeds over 70 kilometres per hour, as it creates a large amount of drag.
- Remove excess weight such as unnecessary tools, golf clubs and luggage.

Filling up

Fill the petrol tank only to the "first click" to avoid spills and fuel wastage due to evaporation.

Vehicle maintenance

Keeping your vehicle maintained with regular servicing can save up to ten per cent on fuel. It will also ensure reliability and maintain resale value.

Some things you can do yourself are:

- check oil, water and coolant levels regularly; and
- keep tyres inflated to the recommended pressure. Low tyre pressure increases fuel consumption and tyre wear.



Choose the best vehicle

Select the vehicle that best suits your needs.

- If you have a choice of vehicles at home or work, use the most fuel-efficient.
- When buying a new car, compare the Fuel Consumption Label on cars to choose the most fuel-efficient vehicle. You can do this by visiting www.greenhouse.gov.au/fuellabel
- If you are looking to purchase a car, keep in mind that newer cars are more fuel-efficient than equivalent older models.
- Money you save on fuel can be used to hire a larger, less fuel-efficient vehicle if needed occasionally.

Fuel choice

Consider having your vehicle converted to liquid petroleum gas (LPG). Using LPG will cut your fuel bill by around a third. Depending on the type of vehicle you drive, that is a saving of around \$25 every time you fill your tank. LPG will also emit less carbon dioxide than petrol. There is a state government subsidy available for LPG conversion. For further information go to www.dpi.wa.gov.au/licensing and click on 'MyVehicle'.