

# Wise Bread's Wise Driving Guide:



108 Tips to Raise Your Fuel Economy

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## Introduction

Even though Gas prices have leveled out a bit, it wasn't that long ago that it was breaking record highs every week, closing in at \$5.00 per gallon. It is increasingly important to be aware of your car's fuel efficiency. Any improvement to your MPG (miles per gallon) will lead to big savings. This comprehensive guide will give you tips to increase your fuel economy immediately. It will also dispel myths and provide warnings for dangerous strategies to avoid.

No matter what kind of car you drive, you can benefit in knowing more about how driving habits, car maintenance, and lifestyle affects how much you pay for gas. While applying some of these tips will have a bigger impact than others, just knowing your options for obtaining better fuel economy is invaluable. Many common driving habits are detrimental to fuel economy, and many drivers unknowingly spend more on gas than they have to. This ebook will guide you through all the ways to get better fuel economy (it's FE in hypermiling lingo). Getting more mileage from every gallon of gas isn't just good for your wallet, it's great for the environment. You can lower your fuel consumption (without sacrificing anything), spend less on gas, and have a better driving experience. It's all in this Wise Driving Guide.

*Please note the special icons that label some of the techniques:*



Top Tip — simple and effective




Advanced technique



Dangerous, stay away



For any updates, news, or to join the forums discussion on this ebook, please visit <http://www.wisebread.com/108-best-fuel-economy-tips>.



Be aware that all of these tips are provided as recommendations and should only be applied when conditions are safe. Some techniques such as coasting and EOC (Engine-off coasting) may be illegal in some areas. Check your local laws before attempting such maneuvers.

# Driving Tips – ways to drive for maximum fuel economy



## 1. Don't drive aggressively

Flooring the gas and slamming on the brakes is the quickest way to burn a hole in your wallet and empty your gas tank. According to fueleconomy.gov, you may experience a 33% decrease in fuel economy by rapidly accelerating and braking. The hard fact is that you share the road with other drivers and ultimately have to stop at all the stoplights and stop signs like everyone else. Save yourself some heartburn, speeding tickets, accidents, and lots of cash by taking it easy on the pedals.



## 2. Plan your stops ahead of time

If you see a red light up ahead, rather than pressing on the gas until you need to brake, coast to a stop by taking your foot off the gas and putting your car in neutral for manual transmission. You have enough momentum to keep your car moving forward for a while (without needing to feed more gas into the engine by maintaining pressure on the gas pedal). By coasting, you're making sure that the gas you use is taking you as far as possible—the key to getting a higher MPG.

## 4. Study the lights

When driving a familiar route, you can identify the intersections at which you typically must stop (so you can coast up to them), as well as the lights that change more quickly due to sensors or the size of the intersection. Smaller, less busy intersections usually have shorter lights, and if there are sensors, allowing cars to get ahead of you to trigger them (also known as "Rabbit Timing") will allow you to coast through. You

# 3

## How your car uses gas

Consider that a car consumes the most gas when it accelerates (even more during rapid acceleration). Once the acceleration is completed, it takes very little to keep the car moving (physics is pushing it along more than anything). If you slow the car down by braking, you've effectively wasted the gas used to push the car forward in the first place. You're losing all the energy it has built up from that initial acceleration. The gas could have taken you farther, but by cutting it short (braking) you're cutting your MPG. To use your gas most efficiently, keep your ride steady and smooth, without a lot of braking.

can make the best time and enjoy greater efficiency by knowing when to coast or when to push through at a constant speed.

## 5. Switch lanes

If you have to stop quickly with no room to coast, choose the lane that has fewer cars stopped at the light so that your momentum will carry you farther, rather than using gas to cover that distance later when you need to accelerate.



## 6. Find the clear lane

Don't get caught in a lane in which traffic conditions require you to speed up and slow down repeatedly. For example, avoid driving behind buses on surface streets, and on the merging or exit lanes of highways.

## 7. Accelerate slowly

Don't push down the pedal more than a quarter of the way down when accelerating. Any more and you'll be pumping excess gas into your engine while going the same distance.

## 8. Shift up early and shift down late

For manual transmission owners, this will keep your car running at a lower RPM at a higher gear, which helps fuel economy.

## 9. Release the throttle early

Some automatic transmissions can be coaxed to upshift sooner when accelerating by briefly releasing some throttle pressure (lifting off the gas pedal), then re-applying throttle pressure to continue accelerating. It may take a little practice to get the timing just right.

## 10. Keep a constant, low RPM

Those with manual transmissions will find this easiest to do, but if you have an automatic transmission, driving 1-3 mph faster or slower can change the gear you are in. Choose the speed that produces the lowest RPM for the gear you are in. Traveling at higher speeds in low gears can consume up to 45% more fuel than needed.

## 11. Don't idle

When idling, you use gas while traveling zero miles—this really reduces your average MPG. If you know you'll be idling for more than 30 seconds, you will save more gas if you turn off your car and restart when you need to start moving (the break-even point for idling versus using gas to start up the car is about 20 seconds). Hybrid cars take advantage of this by turning off the engine automatically when stopped, and will restart again when the gas is applied.

## 12. Shift to neutral

If you do idle, switch to neutral. The car uses less gas when it's in neutral. It's also easier on the transmission and allows the engine to cool.

# 13

## What is hypermiling?

Hypermiling is a term that refers to the techniques used to maximize fuel efficiency. Wayne Gerdes, the most famous hypermiler, coined the term as he was pushing the limits of fuel economy. While all of the techniques suggested in this ebook fall under hypermiling, there are many extreme techniques expert hypermilers use that are considered dangerous and may even be illegal. Always consider safety first.

## 14. Driving without brakes (DWB)

This is not to be taken literally, but it's a term hypermilers use when referring to their fuel economy philosophy. If you really had to drive without brakes, what would you do? You would slow down, drive with more anticipation, and coast to slow down. DWB encompasses the broad view of the hypermilers' best fuel economy practices.

## 15. Engine-off coasting (EOC) or Forced Auto Stop (FAS)

One of the biggest reasons hybrids get much better fuel economy is their Auto Stop feature. Hybrid engines shut down in various situations, one of them being when the accelerator is released (when you're coasting) at under 40 miles per hour. Extreme hypermilers apply this strategy to their non-hybrid cars, which is very dangerous, and most likely illegal. Not only is there a series of precise steps you must execute (i.e. settings to turn the key and how to rev back at the right gear when restarting the engine), but you also lose all power for power-steering and power-braking, which is not a good situation for anybody, whether you're the one driving or just in the vicinity of such a driver. If you are determined to use this technique, buy a hybrid—a car that is specifically designed to operate in this way.

## 16. Drafting

Following a large vehicle closely to drive in its slipstream is no "tip." It is extremely dangerous and no amount of MPG increase is worth the risk. There is simply no time to react to any sudden moves by the truck you're following.

## 17. Pulse and Glide

This originally started as a technique used by hybrid owners, which hypermilers have



adopted to their non-hybrid cars (like EOC/FAS). Rather than going at a steady speed (let's say 40 mph), you accelerate to 45-50 mph (pulse), and then coast until you're at 30 mph (glide). This gets you higher fuel economy than traveling at a steady 40 mph. Hybrid cars are best suited for this technique because of the interaction between the gas and electric engines during the pulse, and because the engine shuts down

during the glide. The idea is that you only use gas for roughly half of the trip, which should yield you twice the MPG. But using this method on a non-hybrid vehicle requires much more strategic maneuvering and the use of extra instrumentation.

## **18. Driving with load (DWL) or target driving**

The aim is to maintain a target MPG rather than a specific speed (like you would during cruise control). This is most effective when there are many dips and hills, and easiest when you have a MPG display to guide you. Using this technique means keeping steady pressure on the gas so that you slow down when going uphill and speed up when going downhill, and even out to a constant rate of speed when you're back on flat road.

## **19. Drive shoeless**

Some extreme hypermilers drive without shoes so they can control the accelerator to the finest degree. Hypermilers got this idea from race car drivers, a big source of inspiration for fuel economy tricks (like drafting).

 **20. Brake hard to coast**

If you're in a situation where you're going too fast and have no time to coast to a stop, rather than braking moderately to slow down to a complete stop, you can brake hard to reduce your speed quickly, then coast the rest of the way. Only do this when it is safe, and there are no cars behind or around you that may react unexpectedly to your sudden braking.

**21. Use momentum to travel up a hill**

Accelerating while moving upwards uses up a lot of gas. If you are approaching a hill, build up speed before reaching the hill and use that momentum to carry you up the hill without additional acceleration. It's much easier to build up speed on a flat road rather than at the bottom of a hill. Maintain your speed as you go up the hill (you probably don't even need to have your foot on the gas). Coast down the hill safely.

**22. Avoid rough roads**

Try to avoid rough roads. Gravel roads, dirt roads and roads with many potholes cause friction that reduces fuel economy.

**23. Find side streets**

Smaller streets that run parallel to large ones are generally less congested and require fewer stops.

**24. Make fewer left turns**

UPS integrated a no left turn policy and claims it shaved 30 million miles off its deliv-

eries and saved the cost of 3 million gallons of gas in 2007. Left turns generally take longer and require more idling. This is especially important when you are running multiple errands. Pick the route that requires fewer left turns. (It isn't so practical when you're just trying to get to one location.)

## 25. Make wide turns.

Wider turns require less deceleration during the turn and less re-acceleration after the turn. This means choosing the outer lane to make a turn when there's an option. This tip applies to instances when you're approaching a turn, not when you're turning from a full stop.



## 26. Drive 55 mph on the highway

In 1974, the 55 mph speed limit was implemented nationwide to respond to the oil crisis at that time. It is still the speed at which cars today get their best MPG. The biggest factor influencing fuel economy at high speeds is wind resistance. Since cars haven't dramatically changed in shape or form in the last 30 years, their ability to bear wind resistance has not changed much, so 55 mph is still the "sweet spot" for cars. There are a few exceptions where high-performance sports cars may find their sweet spot at a slightly higher MPH. However, no matter where the sweet spot is, a small car will always have a much better MPG than a high-performance sports car that needs more fuel for its engine. Cleanmpg.com shows a 17% drop in fuel economy when driving at 70 mph instead of 55 mph and a 10% drop when driving 65 mph compared to 55 mph. If you are already generally driving sensibly without jack rabbit starts and stops, this is where you will see your largest MPG improvement.

# 27

## The cost of minutes

If you need to go 30 miles, driving at 60 mph will get you there in 30 minutes, whereas driving 75 mph will get you there only 6 minutes faster. How much are you paying for those 6 minutes?

## 28. Drive with buffer

By putting more space between you and the car in front, you can anticipate decreases in speed earlier, which allows you to coast rather than brake frequently due to the unpredictable behavior of the driver in front of you. This works best when driving in heavy traffic on the highway. You might see a few cars flooring it just to get ahead of you, but they're not getting anywhere.



## 29. Find good company

On the highway, most people drive faster than 55 mph. Getting in the midst of them will either encourage you to drive faster or force those behind you to quickly get around you. Find the slower vehicles and drive behind or in front of them, to help you stay at optimum speed.

## 30. Watch the winds

This is impractical for the average driver, but if you like to follow the wind reports, or if you live in an area or have a job that requires you to pay close attention to the wind direction, you can decide your route by considering whether you can drive with a tailwind boost, or avoid head and crosswinds. With crosswinds, choosing a route with barriers, such as trees or buildings, or even having other cars around you, will improve your fuel economy.

## 31. Ridge Riding (RR)

Most people drive in the center of the lane, causing grooves, ruts, and dents in the road surface from the constant wear. By driving along the paint where the road is

smoother, your car will encounter less friction. This is really only effective when the road is wet, since you'll be able to avoid driving into water puddles that cause drag.



### **32. Coast through a curve**

Prepare for a curve by coasting up to it and riding through it without stepping on the brakes. You might find cars behind you anxious to gas it to the curve, but you'll leave them behind when they have to step on the brakes while you coast right through it slowly and steadily. This occurs most often on freeway on/off ramps.

### **33. Use the overdrive**

Use your car's overdrive feature when driving on the highway.

### **34. Use cruise control**

Cruise control is best for long distances on flat roads. Don't use it on hilly or mountainous roads that call for frequent acceleration/deceleration.

### **35. Hug the curve**

You travel a shorter distance if you're in the lane that hugs the curve rather than the farther one—same logic as running or racing.

### 36. Consider the weather

When it's hot, avoid driving during the hottest time of day, when your A/C will be required most. When it's cold, drive during the warmest part of the day, to help your engine warm up faster.



### 37. Clear the snow and ice

Completely clear snow and ice off your vehicle before driving. This will minimize your use of defrosters, remove drag from the clumps of snow, and reduce weight (a layer of snow on your car can be surprisingly heavy).

### 38. Don't warm up

Cars today don't need a warm-up time before they begin moving. You can warm up your engine faster by driving, rather than idling, which is terrible for fuel economy.

### 39. Heating block

Use a heating block to warm up your engine beforehand. Engines are most efficient after they are fully warmed up. About two hours is the maximum time needed to pre-warm a small engine.

# 44

## The A/C windows down debate

The large debate over using the A/C versus having the windows down has to do with how large the effect of drag on a particular car is. Air conditioning places a 5-10% extra load on the engine. The drag caused by having the windows down on a sedan can go up to 20%, while SUVs are only affected by about 8% (this is because SUVs have pretty poor aerodynamics to begin with). So it's possible that having the windows down on a SUV is not much different from using the A/C, no matter what the speed.

## 40. Avoid frequent stops during cold weather

The engine does not operate efficiently until it is warmed up. When driving around in colder weather, it hurts your MPG significantly to make frequent short trips (before your engine is completely warmed up, you need to stop, causing the engine to cool down again). If you must do a lot of short trips, drive to your farthest destination first, to warm your engine completely so it takes longer to cool down during your stops.

## 41. Don't run the heater right away

Wait until the engine has warmed up before running the heater. Running the heater before your engine is warm increases engine warm-up time.

## 42. Use covered parking

Covered parking keeps your car cool when it's hot and warm when it's cold.

## 43. Use A/C sparingly

Setting the A/C on max can have as high as a 25% reduction in fuel economy. Use the A/C as sparingly as possible. If you do need to cool down, when driving at low speeds (under 50 mph), rolling down your windows is better than using the A/C, but at higher speeds, using the air conditioner will get you better fuel economy.

## 45. Close unused vents

If you're driving alone, close the vents for the passenger side. You'll be able to get more air at a lower setting, and nothing will be wasted cooling down unoccupied areas of the car.



## **46. Cycle the A/C**

Set the air flow to recirculate, turn it on when under light engine loads or deceleration, and turn it off when under heavy engine load or acceleration.

## **47. Turn off the A/C early**

When you are a few minutes from reaching your destination, turn off the A/C. It doesn't need to keep working until the very last minute when you turn off your car. There will be enough residual cool air to keep away the heat until you stop.

## **48. Keep headlights off**

Don't turn on your headlights until you have to. Any electrical equipment used will increase the load on the engine, which uses more gas. This includes using the defroster, radio, and any other power features. Check your local laws for the exact time that the headlight requirements kick in.

## **49. Don't drive at night**

One way to avoid using headlights is to not drive after sunset.

## **50. Retire your sunroof**

Opening your sunroof increases drag and affects the fuel economy, especially at high speeds.

# 53

## Just park it

Don't wander around the whole parking lot looking for the closest spot. Parking farther away also usually means there's less traffic from cars and pedestrians that requires more frequent stops.

## 51. Don't start until you're ready

Wait to start the car until you are ready to move. Buckle your seat belt, get settled, make sure everyone is in the car and the traffic is clear before starting your car. Otherwise you'll end up idling for no reason.

## 52. Rolling start

You usually can get a rolling start from your automatic transmission before you have to hit the gas. Start your car, shift into gear, and release your brakes. The distance you're covering is basically free!



## 54. Park in the shade

Find a shady area and crack your windows to allow air to circulate. When you get back in the car you won't need to turn the AC on as high or as long.

## 55. Pull-through parking

Find a pull-through parking spot that you can drive forward into, so you are facing out. This way, you won't need to reverse out of the spot (using gas to reverse and then braking before you move forward).

## 56. Reverse-in parking

If there is no pull-through parking spot, backing in to the space will still help. First, having to stop and reverse is better when your engine is warmed up, providing the best fuel economy for the situation. Second, backing out of a space usually takes more time since your field of vision is smaller than it is when you are facing out.

## 57. Potential Parking (PP)

Some hypermilers look for parking at the highest spot so they can coast up to the spot, and exit by rolling forward in neutral.

# Car Tips – ways to make sure your car is in its best shape to yield higher MPG



## 58. Optimum tire pressure

Inflate your tires to the maximum allowed indicated on the sidewall. This reduces the friction caused by your tires and will be more fuel efficient. Make sure to maintain the tire pressure since it will drop over time. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4% for every 1 psi drop in pressure. You'll be surprised how under-inflated your tires can become. Also, properly inflated tires result in a safer ride and longer tread life.



## 59. Over-inflate

Extreme hypermilers will over-inflate their tires by 10-15 pounds above the maximum indicated. This may cause extra wear on your tires and force more frequent tire purchases. It's not only inconvenient, but could be dangerous if it blows.

## 60. MYTH: Nitrogen for your tires

Filling your tires with 100% nitrogen will not impact your MPG very much. Some claim that the use of nitrogen maintains your tire pressure "better" and "longer" but how much better or longer is any one's guess. For no additional cost, you can go to any gas station and maintain proper tire pressure on your own.

## 61. Travel light

Remove excess weight by taking out miscellaneous items stored in the trunk (some drivers even remove unused car seats). Every 100 pounds can reduce your MPG by

2% (smaller cars are more affected than larger ones because the same change in weight represents a larger percentage of the overall weight of a smaller car).

## **62. MYTH: Drive with half a tank**

It's true that a half tank of gas is lighter than a full one, but the extra trips you'll need to take to the gas station and the chance that you'll be running on an empty tank will make this tip cause more harm than good. Just fill 'er up.

## **63. MYTH: Driving on empty is less gas efficient**

It's not good to drive on empty for several reasons, but gas efficiency is not one of them. You may stir up some particles or debris at the bottom of your tank that will clog up your filters and damage your engine. Also, modern fuel injected cars have a fuel pump in the gas tank, which is cooled by the fuel. The reserve fuel is there to keep the pump from overheating. Driving on empty may shorten the life of the pump.

## **64. The right octane**

Only buy gas with the octane rating designed for your engine—higher octane fuel does not mean higher quality. Your engine is designed for a particular octane, and using a higher octane is completely useless.

## **65. MYTH: Wednesdays offer the cheapest gas prices**

While statistics show gas prices are higher on weekends and holidays, there are so many variables affecting day-to-day prices that timing your gas fill-ups based on the day of the week will not be productive.



## **66. Shop online**

Sites like [www.gasbuddy.com](http://www.gasbuddy.com) can show you the best current prices around your area instantly, so you can plan your route ahead of time.

## **67. Clear the nozzle**

Jiggle and turn the gas nozzle before removing it from your tank to drain any residual gas remaining in the nozzle into your tank.

## **68. MYTH: Topping off and inaccurate readings**

Topping off does not result in short bursts of fuel that are inaccurately counted by the meter. But it's still not good to top off because you may overflow, which clearly wastes gas.

## **69. MYTH: Get gas when it's cold out**

Don't bother trying to get gas when it's colder out. It's true that gas is denser in colder temps, but gas stations store it underground in double walled tanks that keep the gas at a relatively stable temperature. When it goes through the pump into your tank, the outside temperature has little effect. However, you may notice a slight difference in the gas tank reading on your dashboard when it's really hot or really cold, since the gas in your tank is more susceptible to extreme outside temperatures.

## **70. Remove unused racks**

Remove any roof racks when you're not using them. This increases drag, which decreases fuel economy.

## **71. Load the trunk instead**

A loaded roof rack can decrease fuel economy by 5% due to the increased drag. If possible, place items in the trunk.

## **72. MYTH: Tailgate down or using a net is better for fuel economy**

Mythbusters proved that having the tailgate up is more fuel efficient. So take off the net and put the tailgate back up.

## **73. MYTH: Washing/waxing**

The formula behind this theory is based on solid facts. However, the results you would achieve are so insignificant that it would not be worth the time or cost to keep this up. This may actually have a larger impact if you were traveling a very long distance at a constant speed. Perhaps it's worth a shot if you are planning a long road trip. But for day-to-day driving, this will not be helpful.

## **74. Use the right tires**

Remove snow tires after winter. Heavier tires with deep treads will use more gas than lighter tires.

## **75. Rotate your tires**

Uneven tire wear will cause more friction, decreasing fuel economy.

## **76. Check your alignment**

Improper alignment will cause engine drag.

## **77. Tighten the cap**

Make sure your gas cap is secure. A properly-fitted gas cap prevents gas from evaporating.

## **78. MYTH: Gas evaporation in high temperatures**

A secured gas cap prevents evaporation, even when it's really hot out.

## **79. Use proper oil**

Use the lowest weight oil recommended for your vehicle, or try synthetic oil. Low-weight oil is easier to pump through an engine, and the engine components will interact more efficiently.

## **80. Tune up**

Keep your car in tip-top shape with regular maintenance. Small inefficiencies could be caused by small problems that are easily fixed or adjusted during regular maintenance.

## **81. Air filter**

It is recommended that you change your air filter once a year, although modern engines have computer sensors that allow air filters to last longer without clogging. Check with your mechanic to make sure your air filter is clean.

## **82. Sunshades**

Use a sunshade for your window when parked outside on a hot day. This will keep your car cooler when you return, so the A/C doesn't need to be blasted as long.

## **83. Seat covers**

Beaded seat covers can provide more ventilation for your body, and help keep you cool.

## **84. Ignore the infomercials**

Avoid additives or products that claim a higher fuel economy. Consumer Reports and the government's Environmental Protection Agency have tested dozens of these products finding that none of them offer any significant improvement in fuel economy.

## **85. Break in period**

New vehicles will not obtain their optimal fuel economy until the engine has broken in. This takes 3-5 thousand miles. Also, check the manual for speed recommendations during this time. Some will say not to go above 60 mph.

# Lifestyle Tips – ways to change your personal habits that will result in fewer visits to the pump

## **86. Drive less**

Don't jump into your car at every impulse errand. Consider if any of the following options are acceptable.



## **87. Use alternative transportation**

Whether it's walking, biking, public transportation or ride sharing, consider your driving alternatives.

## **88. Work options**

Consider moving closer to your workplace, or asking for telecommuting days.

## **89. Cluster your destinations**

Do you drive all around town running regular errands? Consider choosing stores that are closer to one another if they offer equivalent products and services. This includes your gas station. If you decide to drive farther for a better price, think about choosing stores in the same area.

## 90. Cluster your errands

Run all your errands at once so you can get the most out of the miles traveled. It's less efficient to go to the post office and dry cleaners on two separate trips if they're right next to each other.

## 91. Bulk up

If you make several trips to the same store a few times a week, see if you can cut out one or more of those trips by bulking up on the products or services.

## 92. Addictions add up

Having to buy cigarettes or a latte from Starbucks every morning adds up in mileage and gas that's not included in the high sticker price already. Consider if there are any daily habits that you can cut out of your daily route.

## 93. Count your costs

Before heading out, calculate the cost of the trip (multiply the miles you will be traveling by your MPG, and then multiply by the current cost of a gallon of gas). That may make you think twice or rearrange your plans to save money.



## 94. Avoid peak traffic times

Find ways to avoid the congestion by altering the time of day you usually travel. Get into the office earlier, find a gym or bookstore near your work where you can wait out the end-of-day traffic, and avoid the lunch crowd when running errands.

## **95. Skip the drive-thru window**

Just park and walk inside. All that idling is a waste of gas, and it's usually not much faster.

## **96. Order delivery**

If you know your MPG, you can easily calculate whether the driving costs outweigh any delivery/shipping fee.

## **97. Rewards for buying gas**

Use a credit card that will give you rewards or cash back on gas purchases.

## **98. Drive a small car**

A smaller car will always have better fuel economy due to its smaller mass.

## **99. Learn stick**

Manual transmission is more efficient than an automatic.

## **100. Buy a hybrid**

Not only do you get a tax break, but a hybrid car automatically uses efficient driving techniques so you don't have to. The engine will shut off when coasting, energy is transferred to the battery when braking, and the electric battery adds some torque when accelerating from a stop.

## **101. Live without the power**

All of the extra powered accessories and engine “buffness” (horsepower, cylinders, etc.) offered in cars today is a double edged sword. Not only do you pay more money to add them, you pay more with gas each time you use them.

## **102. Spring for tinted windows**

Tinted windows help keep the car cooler, so you don’t need the A/C as much. It also helps protect you from UV rays!

## **103. Don’t use 4 wheel drive**

If you’re not off-roading or stuck in the snow, don’t engage your 4 wheel drive. It increases fuel consumption for no good reason.

## **104. Choose wisely**

Carpooling? Ask the person who drives more efficiently to drive. Do you have your pick of cars to choose from? Pick the one with better fuel economy. Small choices like these can reap big rewards.

## **105. No distractions**

To get good fuel economy, you need to drive consciously, and it’s difficult to do that with any distractions. Whether it’s talking on the cell phone or having someone else in the car, it takes away from your ability to concentrate on your buffer space or light timing.

## 106. Get instant feedback

Get a fuel consumption display if your car doesn't already have one. The instant feedback will provide more motivation to improve and serve as a reminder of bad habits. ScanGauge and SuperMID are popular and dependable.

## 107. Join a community

Attend driving clinics and participate in forums to discuss and get tips and feedback. By sharing and being a part of a community, you can stay excited about your progress.



## 108. Keep a log

Keeping a log of your MPG is the best way to encourage all the habits that contribute to better fuel economy. I've created an easy worksheet to fill out after each fill-up. You can also use an online tool, such as [www.fuelclinic.com](http://www.fuelclinic.com) that does the calculations for you. You'll notice how effective small changes really are!

Join the forums discussion on this ebook, share your experiences with these tips, find updates, news, more great tips and related articles at <http://www.wisebread.com/108-best-fuel-economy-tips>.

