

5 Ways To Drive Smart & Save Green



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Drive smart, save green. It's a great phrase, and if more people took up the challenge, the whole country - no, the whole world - would benefit immensely.

How can you make a difference to the environment with your driving? This guide provides you with 5 great tips that you can put into action right away. You'll save money and help the environment too.

OK, time to drive smart, save green...

1. 1. SLOW DOWN

It has to be said: the very best thing you can do to help the environment with your car is stop driving it! However, you may not have that option, so drive slower instead. Slow things down. At 70 miles an hour you are not driving to save gas. A car engine operates most efficiently at around 55 miles an hour. At that speed you will burn the gas you need and waste as little as possible. You will also get to where you are going just fine, so keep the speed down. Not too slow and not too fast is how to drive smart, save green.

2. INVEST IN QUALITY TIRES AND KEEP THEM PROPERLY INFLATED

Your engine uses a staggering 20% of its efforts just overcoming the resistance of tire rolling! That percentage figure increases when the tires are under-inflated. How can you drive smart, save green in these circumstances? Buy quality tires that get great reviews. They may cost a little more, but they will perform better. Keeping your tires inflated at the manufacturers recommended level at all times will reduce the amount of gas you burn and save you more on your fuel bills.

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3. LIGHTEN THE LOAD IN YOUR CAR

Keep the weight of the load in your car at a minimum at all times. We're not talking about passengers here, but the junk that most people carry around in their cars. I'll bet there are things in your car's trunk that don't need to be there. Go through each item you regularly carry and if you don't really need it, remove it. You can drive smart, save green with a lighter load as it will help your car be more fuel efficient.

4. TURN OFF THE ENGINE

Only run your car's engine when you actually need it. Consider this: it has been estimated that customers sitting in line in idling cars at Burger King waste an amazing 16 million gallons of gas a year. That's certainly not driving smart or saving money. Starting your car uses about the same amount of gas as it will burn in one minute when idling. If you think you will be waiting longer than a minute, switch off.

5. DRIVE SMOOTHLY

This one shouldn't need to be mentioned. It should be the unspoken part of drive smart, save green. Erratic driving with sudden accelerating and hard braking uses up extra gas. Every time you plunge your foot to the floor, or brake hard, you are not driving to save gas - you are wasting it and it puts extra wear and tear on your car, which means extra costs to you and the environment. Sure, it may look macho, but everything about your car suffers, and so does your pocket.

The solution? Drive gently by accelerating moderately and braking smoothly. Always anticipate the need to slow down so that you don't have to slam the brakes at the last moment, or corner harder than you meant to.

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Learning to drive smart, save green is largely common sense. If you really need your car, then learn to drive it responsibly and sensibly. However, if you can walk easily to where you need to go, then do so! Only drive smart, save green when you can't walk.

