

It all adds up to cleaner air

Federal Highway Administration Seasonal Theme Program Materials: Summer

FACT SHEET

Summer is here and people are on the go! Millions of Americans are hitting the road to visit beaches, parks, friends, and family. Now is the time to make your neighbors aware that following a few simple steps at the gas pump—and on the road—can clean the air and keep more money in their wallets.

Refueling

Here are some important refueling tips to share with your friends this summer:

- When refueling your vehicle, stop at the “click.” Spilling one ounce of gasoline that evaporates produces the same ozone-producing VOC emissions as a car driving 56 miles.¹
- Ozone, a pollutant that’s hazardous to your health, forms when evaporative emissions “bake” in the heat. Refueling your car at night can help prevent formation of ozone, which will keep your lungs healthier.²
- Don’t throw your money on the ground! Spilled gasoline from topping off your tank means less money in the bank.

Fuel Efficiency

Soaring gas prices are another good reason to make our vehicles more fuel-efficient. Remember, small changes in behavior can have a big effect on gas mileage.

Here are some suggestions that will help you clean the air and save money this summer:

- Aggressive driving (rapid acceleration, speeding, and quick braking) can lower your gas mileage by 33% at highway speeds and 5% around town. Go easy on the gas and break pedals and you can save 15 to 96 cents per gallon!³
- Driving a typical passenger vehicle at 75 miles per hour uses 18% more gasoline than driving at 65 miles per hour, and 31% more gasoline than driving at 55 miles per hour. That means, at today’s prices, you’re paying an additional 20 cents per gallon of gasoline for every 5 mph over 60 mph you’re driving.⁴
- Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car’s gas mileage by as much as 10%—saving up to 55 gallons of gasoline, or about three trips to the gas station, each year.⁵
- Next time you’re shopping for a new vehicle, consider buying the most fuel-efficient one that meets your needs. Driving a vehicle that gets 30 miles per

gallon rather than one that gets 20 miles per gallon would save you nearly \$730 in gasoline a year, or more than \$3,600 over five years.⁶

¹ Based on original research done by Sonoma Technology Inc., presented at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Air Quality Conference. Baltimore, MD. February 2004.
<http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=conference2004.aq>, Sunday Session, part 2. Tim Dye's PowerPoint, page 92.

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality Index: A Guide to Air Quality and Your Health, <http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=aqibroch.index>.

³ U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml>

⁴ U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.shtml>.

⁵ U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/maintain.shtml>).

⁶ U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/choosing.shtml> (Gasoline cost adjusted to \$2.91/gallon.)