

YOUR GUIDE TO BEING A SMART DRIVER

Fuel



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



**THE LESS FUEL
YOU USE, THE
LESS MONEY
YOU SPEND
AND THE LESS
DAMAGE YOU
DO TO THE
ENVIRONMENT.**

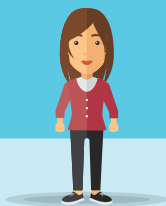
TOP TIPS FOR DRIVING SMARTER

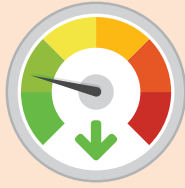
- Driving your vehicle in congested traffic, means that you have to change down to lower gears and keep accelerating at high revs. This stop-and-go pattern needs more energy, resulting in more fuel being burnt, compared to travelling at a constant and reasonable speed.
- Plan your trip and drive smoothly and on lower speeds to lessen the amount of fuel you use. This also results in fewer vehicle emissions.
- The oil that you use in your vehicle impacts fuel consumption. There are different types of oils for different kinds of specific purposes. On your manufacturer's manual, there might be a recommendation for which engine oil is best for your vehicle.
- Service your vehicle regularly to make sure that it performs at its best and uses the least amount of fuel - badly maintained vehicles can increase fuel usage by as much as 50% and emit poisonous carbon monoxide.
- Make sure there are no holes in the vehicle's exhaust system.

- Check tyre pressure regularly, properly inflated tyres helps keep you safe by increasing your vehicle's traction and braking, and saves fuel consumption.
- Choose tyres with low Rolling Resistance (RR) as they have the best fuel efficiency rating, they lower the CO² emissions and maximise your mileage.
- The weight of your vehicle plays a vital factor in fuel consumption. The heavier the vehicle, the more energy it will take to get moving, the more fuel it uses. Carry only what you need in your car.
- Close your windows and sunroofs when driving at high speed and remove empty roof racks - it increases drag (wind resistance) and makes your car use more fuel.
- Use air conditioning only when really necessary - it adds an extra load on to your engine and can increase fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions by up to 5%.



- Avoiding speeding and maintaining a smooth, even pace is crucial for safety, fuel efficiency, and reducing vehicle wear and tear.
- Use the highest possible gear at the lowest possible RPM (revolutions per minute) for improved fuel consumption.
- Try to anticipate traffic flow - look as far ahead as you can, to anticipate traffic conditions, to help you react in time.
- Walk, cycle, join a lift club or take public transport to your destination - fewer cars on the road means less congestion and therefore less stop-start traffic which wastes fuel and creates more vehicle emissions.
- Fill up with petrol during cooler times of the day (early morning and evening) - the fuel will be denser, there will be less evaporation and you will get more petrol for your money.





HOW TO TRACK HOW MUCH FUEL YOU USE

If your vehicle doesn't have a device to track the amount of fuel you use, the following steps show you how to calculate how many kilometres you get out of a tank of fuel. Using fuel-efficient driving practices can increase the distance you travel for every tank.

STEP 1: Fill up your vehicle's fuel tank completely and record the vehicle's odometer reading, which tracks the kilometres you use.

Example: The last time the tank was filled, the odometer reading was 40 200 km.

STEP 2: When it's time to refuel, fill the tank completely and record both the number of litres it took to fill the tank, and the vehicle's new odometer reading. Once two odometer readings have been taken, you can calculate your vehicle's fuel consumption.

Example: It took 56 litres to fill the tank, and this time the odometer reading was 41 000 km.

STEP 3: Calculate the distance travelled by subtracting the new odometer reading from the previous one.

Example: The distance driven would be 41 000 km minus 40 200 km = 800 km.

STEP 4: Divide the number of litres it took to fill the tank by the distance travelled and multiply this value by 100. The result is the vehicle's fuel consumption for that driving period.

Example: 56 litres ÷ 800 km = 0,07.

0,07 x 100 = 7 litres (ℓ) per 100 km.

Therefore, the fuel consumption for that driving period would be 7 litres/100 km.

✓ TOP TIP

REDUCE IDLING – If you are going to come to a stop for more than 60 seconds, turn off your engine, except when you are driving in traffic. This has minimal impact on the starter system, but idling for more than 10 seconds already uses more fuel than it takes to restart your car.





CHOOSING A NEW CAR

If you are looking to buy a new car, but you can't afford electric or hybrid, at least choose a car that uses less fuel and has low carbon emissions. From 2008, under law all car dealers in South Africa must display the fuel efficiency and CO₂ emissions of the car for sale on a placard placed on the windscreen.

ENERGY-SAVING TIPS WHEN CHOOSING A NEW CAR:

- It is ideal to choose the vehicle type that is fuel efficient, such as vehicles with small engines or hybrid cars as they consume less fuel.
- Compare several vehicles and choose the car with the best 'kilometre per litre' range within its particular category.
- Manual gear transmission cars weigh less and are more efficient (and cheaper) than automatic cars.
- Speeding uses more fuel – use cruise control whenever possible.
- Tinted glass helps the car stay cooler and you won't have to use your air-con as much.
- Light-coloured cars are cooler than those with a dark colour.
- Light-coloured seat covers make the inside of your car cooler.
- Consider a roof rack for storing cargo.

TRAVEL SMART PROGRAMME

We have a Smart Driver Programme for fleet drivers, which is currently managed by our Environmental Management Department.

You may also want to read our Transport Department's Smart Travel Guide for smarter, more sustainable ways of getting around.

Access the [City of Cape Town's Smart Driver Training manual](#) online or scan the below QR code:



EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS:

Police or any emergency:
10111

From a cell/mobile phone:
112

Medical Assistance:
10177

E2 National Monitoring Control
Centre Hotline:
+27 (0) 83 318 2475

SANRAL Road Assistance:
0800 487 233

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