



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

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**Jack Darmon has researched the keys to reducing fuel use and car emissions.  
Here are some tips!**

#### **Drive less**

Organize your trips into the city so that you can achieve multiple tasks. Car pool with others. Know the best directions to where you are going. Use public transit.

#### **Brake the correct way**

You can easily save at least 10% to 25% gas by braking the correct way. Especially when there is a traffic jam, try to press on the brakes as little as possible. This works because the vehicle consumes more gas while accelerating from a stop than when still moving.

#### **Turn your air conditioning off**

Try to use your air conditioning as little as possible. Doing so will reduce gas consumption. You can also try to open your windows to increase the airflow within the vehicle.

#### **Reducing the weight in your car**

By reducing the weight in your car, the amount of gas it takes to move the vehicle can be lowered. This is a simple tip to save on gas.

#### **Fill up with a lower-octane gasoline**

Buy the lowest grade or octane of gasoline that is appropriate for your car. Unless your car requires premium gasoline, filling up your car with high-octane fuel is a waste of money. That pricey premium fuel won't boost your car's fuel economy or performance in the least, so skip it.

#### **Don't top off**

Don't bother topping off when filling your car's gas tank. Any additional gas is just going to slop around or seep out. Why waste your money paying for gas your car won't use? Stop pumping at the first indication that your tank is full when the automatic nozzle clicks off.

#### **Tighten up the gas cap.**

Gas will evaporate from your car's gas tank if it has an escape. Loose, missing or damaged gas caps cause 147 million gallons of gas to evaporate each year, according to the Car Care Council. So be sure to tighten up the gas cap each time you fuel up



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### **Go for the shade**

The hot summer sun that makes the inside of your car feel like a sauna also zaps fuel from your gas tank through evaporation. Park your car in the shade of a building or tree whenever possible, and buy a good windshield shade. A windshield shade blocks sunlight and helps to keep heat out of the inside of your car.

### **Pump up your tires**

Don't get caught driving on underinflated tires. Underinflated tires wear down more quickly and they also lower your car's gas mileage. Your car's gas mileage may plummet by as much as 15 percent. Driving on underinflated tires may also reduce the life of your tires by 15 percent or more.

### **Check your tire pressure once a month**

Buy a digital gauge and keep it in your glove box. Compare the pressure in your tires with the recommended pressure listed in your owner's manual and on the placard in your car door. Then inflate your tires as needed. Be sure to check tire pressure when your tires are cold. A good time is early in the morning after your car's been idle overnight.

### **Keep your engine in tune**

Fixing a car that is out of tune or has failed an emissions test can boost gas mileage by about 4 percent. So be sure to give your car regular tune-ups. You'll also want to watch out for worn spark plugs. A misfiring spark plug can reduce a car's fuel efficiency by as much as 30 percent.

### **Replace air filters**

Keep a close eye on your engine's air filter. When the engine air filter clogs with dirt, dust and bugs, it causes your engine to work harder and your car becomes less fuel-efficient. Replacing a clogged air filter could improve your gas mileage by as much as 10 percent and save you 15 cents a gallon. It's a good idea to have your engine air filter checked at each oil change. The Car Care Council recommends changing your car's air and oil filters every three months or 3,000 miles or as specified in your owner's manual.

### **Use the right oil**

You can improve your car's gas mileage by 1 percent to 2 percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. Opt for motor oil with the words "energy conserving" on the API performance label. This oil contains friction-reducing additives.

### **Another website of interest:**

[www.greencars.org](http://www.greencars.org)