



SIX EASY STEPS TO GREENER DRIVING

Green driving – or ‘hyper miling’ – is about travelling as far as you can on one tank of fuel. The following steps could increase your mpg and chop around 10% off your petrol bills – that’s £6 off the average tank of petrol.

1 Drive smoothly

If you see a traffic light, roundabout or bend up ahead, don’t hit the accelerator and then brake just before you reach it. Speed up and slow down gradually and you can improve your fuel efficiency by up to 30%.

2 Get the gear right

A car travelling at 37mph in third gear uses a quarter more fuel than in fifth gear. Shift to a higher gear at 2,500rpm for petrol cars and 2,000rpm for diesel cars.

3 Stick to speed limits

Your car’s fuel efficiency plummets when you travel at speeds higher than 60mph. According to the Department Of Transport, driving at 70mph uses up to 15% more fuel than at 50mph. Travel at 80mph and you could be using up to 25% more than at 70mph.

4 Keep up the pressure

The RAC says you can improve fuel consumption by up to 2% if you check pressures regularly, and keep them at the correct pressure. It’s safer, too.

5 Switch off the air con

Air conditioning increases fuel consumption at low speeds, but at higher speeds the effects are less noticeable (all electrical load increases fuel consumption, so unless you need them turn off your heated rear windscreen, demister blowers and headlights).

6 Plan your journey

Getting lost, or stuck in traffic jams, is the easiest way to waste petrol, so make sure you have a map or a satnav, and avoid rush hour traffic and roadworks if possible.

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