

TIPS TO IMPROVE GAS MILEAGE

*When tires aren't inflated properly, it's like driving with the parking brake on, and can cost a mile or two per gallon.

*An air filter that is clogged with dirt, dust and bugs chokes off the air and creates a "rich" mixture--too much gas being burned for the amount of air, which wastes gas and causes the engine to lose power. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10%, saving about 15 cents on a gallon.

*A vehicle can have either four, six or eight spark plugs, which fire as many as three million times each 1,000 miles, resulting in a lot of heat, electrical and chemical erosion. A dirty spark plug causes misfiring, which wastes fuel. Spark plugs need to be replaced regularly.

*Keep your car properly tuned. A tune-up can improve your gas mileage by an average of 4%. Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor can improve your mileage by as much as 40%.

*Check your vehicle gas cap. About 17 percent of the vehicles on the roads have gas caps that are either damaged, loose or are missing altogether, causing 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year.