

Promoting Fuel-Conserving Ecodriving

Individual drivers can increase fuel efficiency and thus help reduce CO₂ emissions by improving their driving habits. JAMA has therefore been conducting an ongoing public-awareness campaign, in collaboration with the government and industry partners, to promote sound, fuel-conserving ecodriving practices, urging drivers to adopt the ten smart tips listed below. While the already widespread use of digital tachographs in truck fleet operations in Japan continues to expand, automakers are equipping more and more passenger cars not only with fuel efficiency gauges and systems for real-time on-screen displays of fuel efficiency performance, but also with idling-prevention (stop-start) systems and “eco-mode” buttons that activate fuel efficiency-promoting functions.

ECODRIVING 10 tips

TEN TIPS FOR FUEL-CONSERVING ECODRIVING as promoted in Japan

1. Accelerate gently.



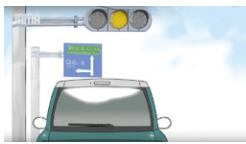
Think “eco-start” when you accelerate—increasing your speed at a relaxed pace, to 20km/h in 5 seconds, boosts fuel efficiency by 10%.

2. Maintain a steady speed and keep your distance.



Maintain a suitably steady speed for safe and fuel-efficient driving. Tailgating leads to unnecessary acceleration/deceleration, resulting in 2% and 6% lower fuel efficiency in urban and suburban areas, respectively.

3. Slow down by releasing the accelerator.



Releasing the accelerator when recognizing the need to slow down (e.g., at changing traffic lights) stops the fuel supply, resulting in a 2% gain in fuel efficiency. Use your engine's braking function whenever appropriate, including on downhill descents.

4. Make appropriate use of your air conditioner.



Don't leave your AC on when you're heating the cabin. When you use it for cooling, be sure not to set it too low. Continuous use of the AC operating at 25°C when the outdoor temperature is 25°C results in a fuel efficiency loss of 12%.

5. Don't warm up or idle your engine.



Today's passenger cars don't require warming up, so start off slowly right after turning on the ignition. When waiting or loading/unloading, make a habit of turning your engine off instead of letting it idle. Ten minutes of engine idling (with the AC off) wastes 130cc of fuel. (See notes below.)

6. Plan your itinerary to avoid congested routes.



Plan the route to your destination using a map or your navigation system before starting off. Check traffic information to avoid congested areas and save time and fuel. Ten minutes of unnecessary driving in a one-hour trip results in a 17% drop in fuel efficiency.

7. Check your tire pressure regularly.



Driving on tires whose air pressure is 50kPa (0.5kg/cm²) lower than it should be decreases fuel efficiency by 2% in urban areas and 4% in suburban areas.

8. Reduce your load.



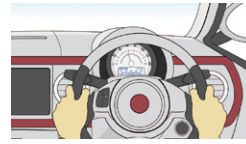
Onboard weight is a key factor in fuel efficiency performance. Driving with 100kg of unnecessary onboard weight causes a 3% loss in fuel efficiency. Another factor is your vehicle's aerodynamic drag, which you can reduce by removing exterior rack equipment when not in use.

9. Respect parking rules and regulations.



Don't leave your vehicle where it blocks traffic. Illegal or imprudent on-street parking causes traffic congestion which leads to increased emissions and a greater risk of accident.

10. Check the readings on your fuel efficiency-monitoring equipment.



Be aware of your vehicle's fuel efficiency performance by consulting onboard equipment that monitors it.

Notes: 1. Warming up a vehicle engine is necessary only in extremely cold climates (-20°C or colder) or after long periods of non-use. 2. For drivers stopping engine idling manually, i.e. by turning their vehicle's ignition off and then back on again, caution is advised as follows (but does not apply to drivers of vehicles equipped with idling-prevention systems): 1) Stepping on the brake pedal repeatedly during engine shut-down may diminish braking power; 2) Drivers not accustomed to shutting down their engines and starting them up again may experience slow or faulty restarts; 3) Excessive shutting down and restarting may drain the batteries, resulting in engine start-up failure; 4) Do not use this method when stopped at the head of a line or on a gradient, because turn signals and windshield wipers, as well as airbags and other safety features, will not function during engine shut-down.