



## Employee Services Newsletter

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# Eighteen Ways to Save Money on Gas!

It's no secret that gasoline prices have never been higher and according to the Lundberg Survey, prices have yet to reach their peak! But even though we can't control the retail cost of gas at the pump, we do have the ability to control consumption and therefore cost! So there's no need to postpone that late summer vacation; just keep these important tips in mind provided courtesy of *ThriftyFun.com*.

- Keep your car tuned up. Cars in poor running condition consume more gasoline than necessary.
- Use a free mapping service such as *MapQuest.com* to plan the most efficient route to your vacation spot.
- When you use your air conditioner you get much lower mileage so use it sparingly. Try using a lower setting or turn the AC on until you feel cool enough then use the fan to circulate the cool air.
- Take all unnecessary items out of the car. Extra weight affects gas mileage.
- Check your tire pressure frequently. Under and over-inflated tires can both reduce fuel efficiency.
- Plan your trips to avoid gridlock or try leaving early to limit time stuck in traffic.
- Drive steady and maintain a constant speed. The more your speed fluctuates the more gas you will use.
- Keep your windows closed at higher speeds. Open windows create additional "drag" which requires more gas to overcome.
- Try not to idle your engine for long periods of time.
- There's no need to "warm up" your car before travel, especially if your car is a newer model.
- Don't travel at fast speeds in low gears. Use overdrive or a high gear when possible.
- Observe the speed limit! Your car will be more efficient and you'll avoid unnecessary and costly tickets as well.
- Accelerate gradually when leaving stoplights.
- There's probably no reason to buy a higher grade of gasoline. Most cars these days are built to run on regular unleaded. Check your owner's manual.
- Revving the engine wastes gas.
- When commuting to work, try to arrange car pools or consider public transportation if available. The money you save can offset the cost of your family vacation.
- Remove ski racks if you're not using them. Again, these devices interrupt the airflow and create unnecessary drag.
- Try to "multi-task" your purchasing trips so as to avoid multiple trips to the store or shopping plaza.

By adhering to some of these suggestions, you can empower yourself to economize despite the current escalation in gas prices. We at the ESI Employee Assistance wish you a happy summer and remind you that regardless of where your vacation destination takes you within the United States, your EAP is just a phone call away!