

## Planning your journeys

Thinking ahead about the journey you are about to make will save you time and money.

- **Short journeys cost more**  
Cars can use up to 3 times more fuel per mile on a short trip compared to a motorway journey, because the engine doesn't warm up. For journeys less than 2 miles, consider walking or cycling.
- **Plan your route carefully**  
If you plan your journey in advance, you'll waste less time and fuel driving around lost!
- **Avoid congestion**  
If you can, avoid driving in the rush hour, you'll really notice the improvement in fuel consumption.
- **Compare journey times**  
Compare your regular journeys at different times of the day at [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info). You may find a more convenient and quicker time to travel.
- **Link your journeys**  
Reduce your mileage by linking trips – for example, calling at the shops on the way home from work.



## Work smarter at the office

Try not to take work travel for granted. Think about commuting time when you are planning your work.

- **Consider using conference calls**  
Conference calls are quick and easy to set up and are an ideal replacement for small meetings. They eliminate car journeys and save you time and money.
- **Working from home**  
Plan and group work together that you can do from home. Working from home for one day a week can cut your travel costs by up to 20%.
- **Meetings and conferences**  
If you are going to a town or city centre, travel by public transport or "park and ride" to arrive refreshed and on time with no worries about parking.
- **Is there a cheaper travel option?**  
If you are working in a congested urban area, commuting by public transport, walking or cycling may well be quicker and cheaper than the car.
- **Use travel time as work time**  
By travelling by train rather than by car, you are able to work, plan or relax before meetings.



## Live smarter

Simple adjustments to your lifestyle can keep you healthy and save you money.

- **Shop online**  
Consider home delivery for the big shop - less stress and less temptation to buy on impulse. Most major retailers now offer online shopping.
- **Leave the car at home for local journeys**  
Get to know your neighbours, walking to the local shops and services helps you keep in touch with what is happening locally.
- **Fed up with being the kid's "taxi"**  
Older children love independence, a monthly bus pass will take them to school and out and about with their friends, and it's great value for money.
- **Share the journey to school**  
It's great for the kids and helps you keep in contact with other parents.
- **Healthy ways to school**  
Walking to school will save you money and help you and your child stay fit and healthy or, ask about cycle training at your child's school or the local council.



## Save up to £3,700 a year

If you are running a second car, but just use it to make short, local journeys, can you do without it?

- **Count the cost**  
On average, a small car costs around £3,700 a year to run. That excludes the purchase cost. Bigger cars cost even more to run.
- **Work a 4 day week**  
You could be working one day a week just to pay for your second car.
- **Other options are cheaper**  
An annual bus ticket can cost as little as £500, a decent bike costs around £200 and walking is free!
- **Use the savings to travel by taxi**  
By saving on your second car costs, you can afford to use taxis at least 2-3 times a week.
- **Make better use of your car**  
Give each other lifts instead of having a car each.
- **Healthier lifestyle**  
Driving less could improve your health and waistline.



## Buying your next car

Make your next purchase a smaller more fuel efficient car - and save money.

- **Could you manage with a smaller car?**  
Opting for a smaller fuel-efficient car could save you up to £700 per year in fuel costs alone.
- **Savings on road tax**  
A fuel efficient car such as a new Ford Ka will cost you only £35 a year in road tax (C rating), compared to £405 a year for a Ford Galaxy (L rating).
- **Don't forget depreciation**  
If you buy a large expensive car it can lose over £7,000 in the first year.
- **Insurance**  
You can pay an extra £500 per year for a top of the range car compared with a small fuel efficient car.
- **Small is more efficient and cheaper to run**  
Fuel, maintenance, insurance, car tax are all considerably cheaper for a smaller car.
- **Car safety ratings**  
Visit [www.euroncap.com](http://www.euroncap.com) to find the safest cars.



## Monitor your fuel costs

DATE	FUEL COST	LITRES	MILES
	£		
	£		
	£		
	£		
	£		
	£		
	£		
<b>TOTAL</b>	£		

- **How well is your car performing?**  
For UK car fuel consumption and exhaust emissions figures, visit: [www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk](http://www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk)



## Driving Style

Smarter driving techniques will save you money and keep you safe.

- **Drive smoothly**

Aggressively accelerating or late braking wastes fuel (up to 20%), so try to drive consistently. Use your rev counter to keep your revs low and save fuel.

- **Read the road ahead**

Look out in advance for anything that might require you to slow down or stop and slow down gradually.

- **Use the gears correctly**

Change up into a higher gear as soon as it's possible and safe to do so. This can make savings of your fuel bill of up to 15%.

- **Reduce your speed**

Travelling at 80mph on the motorway will use between 10% and 20% more fuel than doing 70mph.

- **Drive more leisurely and save even more**

If you really want to save money, travelling at 50mph will use between 20% and 30% less fuel than doing 70mph.



## Money saving tips

Reducing unnecessary weight and idling will save you fuel and money.

- **Use the air conditioning less**

Air con increases fuel use by up to 10%. So, driving with the air con on is equivalent to paying up to 10p per litre more for your fuel.

- **Don't rev the engine**

Reving the engine whilst stationary achieves nothing except wasting fuel and costing you money.

- **Don't warm up the engine**

It causes unnecessary engine wear, as well as wasting fuel. Instead, invest in some decent de-icer and try to drive off straight away.

- **Lighten the load**

Don't carry unnecessary stuff around in the boot - a 15% weight increase will see fuel economy fall by the same amount.

- **Take the roof rack off**

An empty roof rack will cause drag and ruin the car's aerodynamic shape.



## Love your car, look after your car

Keeping your car in good shape will improve fuel economy and save you money in the long run.

- **At your service**

Make sure your car is serviced regularly. A well-maintained car is more fuel efficient.

- **Let your car breathe**

By cleaning or changing your air filters you can markedly increase your fuel economy.

- **Check your tyre pressure regularly**

An under-inflated tyre will waste about 3% of your fuel, and it will wear out quicker too.

- **Use the right oil**

Using the recommended oil for your car can improve your fuel economy by 2%. Consult your owner's manual, your local dealership or garage for the correct oil.

- **Tune in**

Next time your car is due for a service, talk to your garage about having your engine tuned for maximum fuel economy.



Here are a few suggestions to help you save money by using your car more wisely.

As well as saving you money\* they will save you time and stress.

Adopting some of these recommendations will improve your quality of life and work.

\* The percentage saving quoted in this leaflet are not cumulative (they cannot be added together).



## A pocket guide to

# Cutting your car costs



**Your text here**

Your text here

