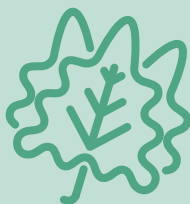


# Eco-friendly Car Care Tips

Automotive emissions and effects on the environment is a topic that won't be going away anytime soon. You don't have to spend a small fortune for an electric or hybrid electric vehicle to reduce emissions—just drive the car you have smarter.

## 10 tips to make your vehicle more eco-friendly:

- 1. Avoid idling
- 2. Limit A/C use
- 3. Take it easy, lead foot
- 4. Don't stomp the brake pedal
- 5. Take pride in your ride
- 6. Keep tires inflated
- 7. Lighten the load
- 8. Be smart when filling up
- 9. Pool your efforts
- 10. Think green when you clean



### 1 Avoid idling

Whether waiting on a food order, or in school pick-up lines, most of us have parked our car and left it running for a time.

Turning off and restarting your vehicle doesn't waste fuel. In fact, an idling engine is not operating at the optimum temperature and can actually be harmful to engine components over time.

### 2 Limit A/C use

Automotive air conditioners use a lot of energy and can dramatically increase fuel consumption. Try cracking the windows to get comfortable instead of blasting the A/C to get cooler.

### 3 Take it easy, lead foot

When possible, avoid accelerating and slowing cycles. Keeping your vehicle at a steady speed helps to conserve fuel. Additionally, speeding can reduce your gas mileage as much as 15%.

### 4 Don't stomp the brake pedal

Anticipate road conditions ahead and avoid unnecessary braking. Choose routes with less traffic to travel at a steady pace. Driving at a reasonable speed allows more time to let off the gas and coast before braking.

### 5 Take pride in your ride

Regular preventative maintenance keeps your vehicle running more efficiently, which saves money and reduces emissions.

### 6 Keep tires inflated

Maintaining proper air pressure in your tires can extend the life of your tires and boost fuel economy. Check tire pressure monthly and when significant weather changes occur.

### 7 Lighten the load

The heavier your vehicle, the more fuel it will burn. Decrease weight where possible by cleaning out your trunk and back seat for better fuel economy.

### 8 Be smart when filling up

When filling up with gas, avoid topping-off the tank. This can lead to fuel coming up the filler neck and spilling out. Topping off can also contaminate the vehicle's vapor canister causing your vehicle to release more pollutants into the atmosphere.

### 9 Pool your efforts

Most of us can't completely get rid of our cars, but we can help reduce the number of them on the road by carpooling and reduce emissions at the same time.

Carpooling also means less money spent on gas and reduced wear and tear on vehicles. Many large cities have carpooling or HOV lanes that provide quicker travel.

### 10 Think green when you clean

Washing your car can be an eco-friendly experience, and a few small changes can make a big difference.

Be efficient; clean your vehicle from the top down and turn hose off between rinses, or use waterless products.

Use biodegradable products such as vinegar, baking soda, and chlorine and phosphate-free dishwashing liquid.

Making your car more eco-friendly doesn't mean a complete lifestyle change. You can make a positive impact with just a few smarter choices. Finally, most of these tips will not only increase fuel economy and reduce emissions, but they will also save you money at the pump!