

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. 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 to find the safest cars.



Monitor your fuel costs

DATE	FUEL COST	LITRES	MILES
	£		
	£		
	£		
	£		
	£		
	£		
	£		
TOTAL	£		

- **How well is your car performing?**
For UK car fuel consumption and exhaust emissions figures, visit: 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



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