

# Engines OFF! Colorado & OzoneAware EcoDriving Tips



## 1. TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF

Your vehicle gets 0 miles per gallon (MPG) when it is idling. Turn your engine off when you are stopped for 30 seconds or more and you are not in traffic. Avoiding 5 minutes of idling each day can save \$35 to \$115 a year, depending on the size of your gas tank.

## 2. MAINTAIN YOUR VEHICLE

Regular maintenance, such as oil changes and the replacement of air filters, will keep your vehicle running smoothly and get you better gas mileage. Properly inflated tires also help increase gas mileage. Tune up your vehicle and check your tire pressure often.

## 3. STOP AT THE CLICK

Gasoline vapors contribute to ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant, when mixed with heat and sunlight. To avoid releasing ozone-causing vapors, fuel your vehicle after 5 PM and stop at the click—when the nozzle automatically shuts off. Also, tighten your gas cap and don't drip fuel or overfill your tank.

## 4. DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE TO WARM IT UP

Vehicles built since the mid-1980s do not need to warm up before driving. It only takes 30 seconds for the oil to circulate throughout the engine, even on the coldest of mornings. Your vehicle will warm up faster when you are driving it than it will when you are idling. During the winter months, keep a sturdy ice scraper in your vehicle to clean your windows before starting the engine.



## 5. BE A SMOOTH OPERATOR

Rapidly speeding up and braking uses more fuel than steady driving. Avoid sudden stops and starts, and try to maintain an even speed where possible. On longer trips, cruise control can help to keep your speed constant and can provide an average fuel savings of 7%. Smooth vehicle operation will make you a safer driver and keep more money in your pocket.

## 6. COMBINE ERRANDS AND DRIVE LESS

Plan your stops into one outing rather than making multiple individual trips. Before you go somewhere new, look up your route or use GPS software so you don't waste gas looking for your destination.

## 7. KEEP YOUR VEHICLE COOL

The sun is intense in Colorado and can quickly heat up the inside of a vehicle. When driving slower than 40 miles per hour (MPH), let the heat out by opening the windows. Open windows can cause an aerodynamic drag at higher speeds, so use your air conditioner only when traveling 40 MPH or faster. When possible, try parking in the shade and using a windshield shade to block the sun's rays.

## 8. REMOVE EXCESS WEIGHT

The heavier your vehicle, the more gas and money it takes to move it. Unless you need it, take it out.

## 9. SHARE THE WEALTH

Anyone can increase a vehicle's fuel economy and save money by following these EcoDriving Tips. Share these tips with your friends and family to help them be EcoDrivers too. Everyone benefits from cleaner air!

**Following these 9 simple EcoDriving Tips will make you a safer driver, decrease wear on your vehicle, increase your vehicle's fuel economy, and improve our air.**

**EcoDriving = More Green for You and the Planet!**