

Ecodriving: Pro Tips



This fact sheet is for drivers who have mastered the fundamentals of ecodriving.

Details of ecodriving fundamentals and complementary fuel saving actions are provided in separate fact sheets (see over). 

If you have mastered the fundamental techniques of ecodriving, and practise them consistently, you've already made substantial gains in your fuel efficiency. These tips may help you make further improvements, though they will be less significant than those you've already made.

Tips to Avoid Idling

- If you need to make a right turn from an arterial road, consider turning at an earlier junction if there is a gap in the traffic, rather than proceeding to your preferred street and waiting for oncoming vehicles.
- Weigh up whether entering an arterial road from a local street will be quicker at a traffic signal or not. Turning right during peak periods may be quicker at the signal, whereas a left turn during quieter traffic will likely require less waiting where no signal is present.

- Consider the 'least fuel' (or similar) option when using your GPS navigation, rather than 'least time' option – the predicted time saving may not justify the extra fuel.

Tips for Planning Trips

- For discretionary trips, pick your travel times carefully. You can drive more efficiently in lighter traffic, and you won't need to rely on air conditioning during cooler parts of the day.
- All else being equal, try to complete your journey with as few turns as possible. For example, across a grid, drive south, south, west, west; rather than south, west, south, west. Turning requires you to slow down and speed up more often, using more fuel. You may also get a better run of traffic signals on a straighter line.

Don't Speed!

Speeding is dangerous and illegal – and you do not save fuel by speeding.

- Aerodynamic drag increases markedly with speed. If your speed increases by 10%, the power required

Further information:

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to overcome aerodynamic drag increases by about one third! That power is delivered by consuming more fuel.

- Habitually driving 3 km/h over the regulated speed in the urban environment means you need around 10% more energy to accelerate your vehicle. That energy comes from your fuel.
- Speeding won't save time. On a 10 km journey, you'd only save 46 seconds by increasing your average speed from 60 km/h to 65 km/h. In practice, however, your travel time is dictated by traffic and traffic signals – which are timed for safe, legal speeds.

Performance Improvement

Ecodriving habits can wax or wane over time. If you are serious about reducing your fuel consumption, costs and emissions, it is worthwhile monitoring driving performance.

- For consistency, always fill your tank to the first 'click' of the pump. Don't attempt to overfill your tank with a second squeeze of the trigger.
- Take note of your odometer reading (km) when you refill, as well as the amount of fuel you put in (litres). Determine the distance you've driven by subtracting your last odometer reading from the current one.
- Use the following formula to determine how efficiently you have driven since the last refill (the result will be in L/100km):

$$\text{Efficiency} = \frac{100 \times [\text{Fuel (L)}]}{[\text{Distance (km)}]}$$

- Drivers of plug-in electric vehicles can use the following formula (the result will be in Wh/km):

$$\text{Efficiency} = \frac{1000 \times [\text{Electricity (kWh)}]}{[\text{Distance (km)}]}$$

A good ecodriver may be able to match or better their vehicle's rated fuel consumption. For a benchmark, consult your vehicle's handbook or, for light vehicles, visit the Australian Government's Green Vehicle Guide or Fuel Consumption Guide Database.[Ⓞ]

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📄 See Also:

- [Ecodriving](#)
- [Ecodriving: Avoid Unnecessary Idling](#)
- [Ecodriving: Look Up, Plan Ahead & Mind the Gap](#)
- [Ecodriving: Drive Smoothly](#)
- [Ecodriving: Smart Use of Air Conditioning](#)
- [Ecodriving: Use Your Gears Effectively](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Maintenance and Tyres](#)
- [Reducing Emissions: Aerodynamics and Loading](#)

Ⓞ External Links:

- [Green Vehicle Guide](#)
- [Fuel Consumption Guide Database](#)

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