



# Vehicle Usage

## Top Five Ways to Protect the Power



U.S. AIR FORCE



U.S. Air Force

MISSION ASSURANCE THROUGH

**ENERGY**  
ASSURANCE

Only about **15 percent** of the energy from the fuel you put in your tank gets used to move your car down the road or run useful accessories, such as air conditioning. The rest of the energy is lost to engine and driveline inefficiencies and idling. Therefore, the potential to improve fuel efficiency with advanced technologies is enormous.

**1.**

Don't let your vehicle idle. Idling is expensive. It uses up to one gallon of fuel per hour depending on the vehicle. It pollutes also creating up to 20 lbs of greenhouse gases. And it expends more than 6 billion gallons of gas annually in the U.S. And Idling threatens health. Breathing vehicle emissions increases risks of respiratory illnesses.

**2.**

Carpool whenever possible. Use Carpooling / Public Transit / Non-Motorized Options: Ride the bus, carpool, bicycle or walk instead of driving alone. Sharing a ride to work with a friend or two effectively doubles your fuel economy for the trip.

**3.**

Don't Drive Aggressively / Drive at the Speed Limit: Avoid aggressive driving and aggressive starts. All vehicles lose fuel economy at speeds above 55 mph. Driving 65 mph instead of 75 mph reduces fuel cost 13%. Driving 55 mph would save 25%.

**4.**

Reduce Air Conditioner Use / Close Windows: Using the air conditioner increases fuel cost from 13% up to 21%. If it's cool enough, use the flow-through ventilation instead of rolling down the windows or using the AC.

**5.**

Combine errands when possible. Combining errands into one trip saves you time and money. Your fuel economy is worse when your engine is cold than when it is warmed up. So, several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer, multipurpose trip covering the same distance. Trip planning can reduce the amount of time you drive with a cold engine. It can also reduce the distance you travel.