

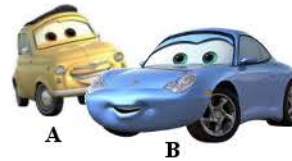
The TRUTH about Fuel Mileage...



... in plain language

EnerGuide Ratings

The Government of Canada carries out standardized testing and reports on the amount of fuel used by various vehicles. These ratings are very useful to consumers to **compare** the amount of fuel vehicle A will use and how much vehicle B will use to do exactly the same amount of work under the same conditions.



Vehicle A = 11.8 l/100 km
Vehicle B = 13.0 l/100 km

Vehicle A will use less gas than Vehicle B to do exactly the same work if driven the same way.

Will Vehicle A get 11.8 l/100km in real life?

No. Well, maybe sometimes! Real life throws so many curves that actual mileage will vary based on many, many factors. Keep reading to learn about which factors increase fuel usage and what you can do to improve your fuel mileage.

Why won't I get the advertised mileage?

In the standard testing that is used to get the numbers there is never any wind, the temperature stays at a balmy 20-30 C, the highway speed averages 77 km/hr and never exceeds 97 km/hr, the city speed averages 20 km/hr and never exceeds 91 km/hr, there are no rough roads, the vehicle is in prime operating condition, there are no bug deflectors, mud flaps, running boards, roof racks or air conditioning. Is this the way you drive?



How can you calculate your actual highway fuel mileage?

Don't rely on your dashboard read out. It is a combination of all the driving you have done since you last reset it and it has a margin of error. Instead, fill your tank and set the trip odometer to zero. Drive a round trip on the highway, say 100 km or more. Then fill the tank again and record the amount of fuel that was required and the mileage on the odometer. To calculate your fuel mileage:

Fuel purchased / distance travelled
X 100 = fuel mileage litre/100 km

For example:
30.5 l / 250 km X 100 = 12.2 l/100km



Common Fuel Wasters You Can Control:

- Accelerating quickly and braking hard
- Traveling 10-20 km or more over the speed limit
- Idling your vehicle for more than 10 seconds
- Driving around for no particular reason
- Forgetting the cruise control and constantly changing your speed
- Spreading your errands out into several short trips
- Saving money by cutting corners on vehicle maintenance



Things You Can't Control

Saskatchewan winters wreak havoc on fuel mileage. Warming up before setting out consumes a lot of fuel without going anywhere. Operating a vehicle below 20 C reduces engine efficiency significantly. Driving with winter tires increases fuel consumption but is necessary for safety.

And don't forget, any time of the year, it takes more energy to travel over a gravel road than a paved one!



How much difference does it really make?

Reduce Fuel Usage up to

How?

37%*

Drive moderately. Accelerate 0-60 km in 15 seconds instead of 10. Anticipate braking and coast before braking gently.

21%**

Smooth the air flow. Keep the smooth flowing lines of your vehicle as much as possible. Avoid carrying items on your roof racks. Seriously consider the need for extra mirrors, bug deflectors, running boards, etc.

19%*

Don't leave your vehicle idling. You're getting zero l/100 km while your vehicle sits motionless. How much you save depends on how much you idle. If you are waiting more than 10 seconds, it's to your advantage to turn off the engine.

14%*

Drive the speed limit. That's the number posted on the highway. Too many of us are in the habit of traveling 10-20 km faster, all the time.

14%*

Use cruise control. The prairies are a natural for getting the most out of cruise control. Lots of long flat stretches. Don't use cruise control in hilly or mountainous areas because your vehicle will use extra gas downshifting to maintain speed.

14%+

Drive on paved roads as much as possible. Gravel roads increase drag and clog air filters.

11%+

Maintain your vehicle. Check your tire pressure regularly to eliminate underinflated tires. Check fluid levels at least once a month. Follow your vehicle's recommended maintenance schedule (ie. air filter, fuel filter, spark plugs, etc.)

2%+

Lighten the load. For every 100 lb you can eliminate you stand to improve your fuel mileage by 2%. So clear out the trunk, empty the back seat, and save.

* Information Source: Edmunds.com "We Test the Tips", "We Test the Tips Part II", "Top 10 Ways to Waste Gas"

+ Information Source: EPA

