

Help America

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You can help yourself to save money by slowing down on the highway and, in the process, help America through the energy crisis. Tests show that "Driving 55" will result in fuel economies. The chart below lists the gas mileage various cars attained at three different speeds and gives the percentage of fuel saved by slowing down from 60 to 50 mph, from 70 to 60 mph, and from 70 to 50 mph. The figures at any given speed will vary for other cars, but the percentage savings will be similar.

Gas Consumption at Various Speeds

Car No.	Weight of Car (lbs.)	Miles per Gallon			Percentage Rise in Fuel Consumption		
		50 mph	60 mph	70 mph	From 50 to 60	From 60 to 70	From 50 to 70
A	2290	19.11	17.83	16.72	7.18	6.64	14.29
B	2400	22.22	21.08	17.21	5.41	22.49	29.11
C	3500	17.29	15.67	13.32	10.34	17.64	29.80
D	3540	20.46	14.83	13.42	37.96	8.96	52.46
E	3820	20.28	17.78	14.88	14.06	19.49	36.29
F	3975	16.32	15.77	13.61	3.49	15.87	19.91
G	3990	16.98	13.67	11.08	24.21	23.38	53.25
H	4530	17.50	16.17	14.86	8.23	8.82	17.77
J	5250	15.62	14.22	12.74	9.85	11.62	22.61
Avg.	3699	18.42	16.33	14.20	12.79	15.00	29.71

Car numbers have been changed from their designations in the original report from which these figures are drawn, so that the cars could be arranged in order of increasing weight. The figures are contained in the U.S. Department of Transportation report, "The Effect of Speed on Automobile Gasoline Consumption," October 1973, the most recent study by the Department of Transportation on the subject.

All of the cars in the study were from dealer stock and were not specially tuned for the study. All were factory-equipped with air conditioning, but the air conditioning was not in use at the time of this series of

tests. Tuning a car will generally raise its fuel economy, and the use of air conditioning will generally lower mileage (on the tested cars by 7.67 per cent to 11.39 per cent, depending upon speed). In addition, a car not equipped with air conditioning will weigh less and thus will attain better gas mileage than one so equipped, even if, in the latter case, the air conditioning is not being used.

The figures above are lower than might be expected for the same cars in mileage tests conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), because the EPA tests are conducted in a laboratory with a dynamometer and the DOT tests were actual road tests.

Other Fuel-Saving Hints


The Federal Energy Administration suggests the following as other ways to save money on transportation. All of them are likely to have a positive environmental impact as well.

- * Buy a smaller car, if possible, when you trade
- * Buy as little optional equipment as possible when you trade
- * Drive at as steady a speed as you can
- * Start slowly
- * Avoid unnecessary braking and "riding" the brakes
- * Use the air conditioning as little as possible
- * Join a car pool or use public transit to work or school
- * Take care of as many errands as you can on each trip in the car
- * Inflate tires to recommended maximums
- * Carry as little extra weight as possible
- * Don't idle engine unnecessarily, pump the accelerator, or race the engine

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