



Cut Your Car Costs

This could save you £400 a year!



Are YOU Wasting Money on YOUR Car?



Are your motoring costs going up? Cars are expensive to run but there are a number of easy ways that you can cut your costs.

The average driver spends around £1,500 a year on fuel. Following the simple tips in this leaflet could save you the equivalent of 30p a litre on fuel! Even if you only follow some of them you could easily save £200 a year. What would you spend it on?

The most common ways drivers waste money are shown below:

The most important factor in how much your car costs you is YOU!...

- **How YOU drive it!**
- **The way YOU look after it!**
- **When and why YOU drive it!**
- **The car YOU choose to drive!**

How you waste money	Fuel consumption penalty	What it could cost you extra each year *	What you can do to cut your fuel costs
Typical driving style	15%	£170	Follow the ten 'Smarter Driving' tips in this leaflet.
Very aggressive/fast	40% or more	£450	Take it easy and slow down. It's safer and less stressful.
Roof bars (nothing on them)	5% - 10%	£50 - £100	Remove roof bars when you're not using them.
Loaded roof rack/bike	Up to 30 %, more at higher speeds	£100 or more **	Use an aerodynamic roof box if you can (remove it when you don't need it). Consider a rear mounted bike rack or better still, put bikes in your car if they'll fit.
Under-inflated tyres	3 - 4%	£45	Keep your tyres properly inflated. Check your tyres at least once a month (check before you've driven anywhere and the tyres are cold).
Air conditioning	up to 20%	£60+ **	Use air conditioning as little as possible – it can increase fuel consumption by up to 20%. Open the windows instead at slower speeds. Use the air vents at high speeds.
Extra weight	6% per 100kg	£70 per 100kg	Take everything out of your car that doesn't need to be there, especially any heavy items.
Poorly maintained car	up to 25%	£280	Service your car regularly. Many faults can be fixed by a simple engine tune. Even just replacing a clogged air filter can improve your fuel consumption by 10 per cent.

* based on an average sized car driven 9,000 miles per year.

** Depending on how much it is used

10 Smarter Driving Tips...



Give some of these tips a try. You'll save money and be a safer driver as well as helping to reduce your impact on the environment.

1. Shift up as soon as possible.

Drive smoothly and economically by avoiding high engine revs. For petrol/LPG cars, change up a gear before 2500 RPM, for diesel cars before 2000 RPM.

Press the accelerator gently to drive away and change to a higher gear as soon as you can. You don't need to use all the gears - Be prepared to skip gears to suit your speed and the terrain.



2. Maintain a steady speed, using the highest gear possible.

Don't speed up just to slow down. Instead, go lightly on the accelerator and coast where possible.

3. Anticipate traffic flow.

Look ahead and keep enough distance from the vehicle in front to avoid sudden braking. Don't approach traffic lights at speed. If it is clear that you'll have to stop, slow down gently and allow your car to coast if possible.

4. Drive smoothly.

Abrupt starts and stops waste fuel. Accelerate smoothly and brake gently – heavy braking and pulling away too fast uses 60% more fuel. When you have to slow down or stop, decelerate smoothly by releasing the accelerator in plenty of time.

5. Don't drive aggressively.

Driving aggressively causes more pollution, increases your risk of having an accident and will cost more in fuel. Give yourself extra time to get to your destination and think "steady and smooth" as you drive.

6. Don't over-rev the engine when starting your vehicle.

You don't need to press the accelerator hard.

7. Don't sit and wait for the car to warm up.

Idling when cold causes rapid engine wear. A car warms up faster when it is moving so drive off as soon as possible after starting the engine.

8. Switch off the engine when you're stuck in a traffic jam, waiting at slow lights or parked at the side of the road.

Sitting with the engine running in traffic burns fuel and wastes money. But only switch off when it is safe to do so and don't coast with the engine switched off – most cars need the engine running for the brakes to work properly.

9. Slow down.

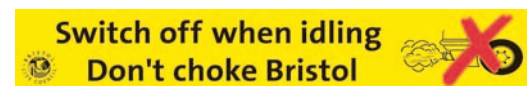
Driving at higher speeds can double your fuel costs as well as increasing pollution. It also increases your chances of getting a speeding ticket or having a crash. Stick to the speed limits. Be patient, overtaking uses lots of fuel but you often gain little time. On motorways driving at 85mph can use 40% more fuel than travelling at 70mph.

10. Use Cruise Control on motorways and dual carriageways.

If your car has it, Cruise Control will save you money.

Why not try having an Eco-Driving Lesson to really help you learn these new driving skills? They don't cost much and people who have lessons usually save far more money than people who just read about the driving tips. Call your local driving school and see if they offer lessons.

For a free 'Switch Off' Car Sticker Phone 0117 903 6701 or email transport_plan@bristol-city.gov.uk



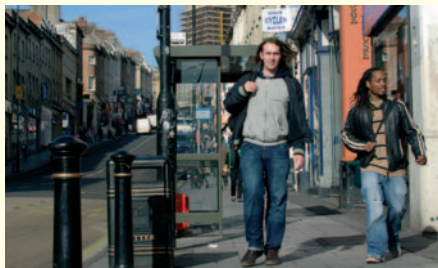
Drive Less - Save More



FACT

If every car in the Bristol area was driven 5 miles less per week it would remove 100 million miles of traffic off the roads each year. Could you cut your mileage by 5 miles per week?

One of the best ways of saving money is to use your car less. Before you use your car ask yourself:



- Do I really need to make this journey?
- Could I combine several trips rather than make lots of short trips, or share a car? Short journeys (less than 2 miles when the engine is cold) use more fuel and pollute up to 60% more per mile than when the engine is hot. Several short 'cold start' trips can use twice as much fuel as a single, longer trip that covers the same distance
- Could I walk or cycle or take the bus instead of the car?
- Plan your journey in advance to avoid congestion, roadworks and getting lost.

Websites such as: www.rac.co.uk and www.theaa.com can help you.

FACT

In Bristol there are more than one million car trips per week of less than 2 miles. That short journey might be ideal for walking or cycling.

FACT

Being fitter makes you happier.

FACT

Around 70% of the population are not active enough to stay fit:

- 30 minutes of moderate activity 5 days per week is enough to cut the risk of heart disease and diabetes, and reduce levels of blood pressure and stress. A simple way of doing this is to walk or cycle for short journeys.

Need a bit of help?

- Why not get a pedometer to help you monitor how far you walk and find out if you are getting enough daily exercise? You can get them from most chemists and sports shops and from many supermarkets and department stores.

Not been on a bike for a while?

- Why not try cycle training to help you brush up on your cycling skills and find quicker, safer routes for journeys you'd like to make. Life Cycle UK offers modestly priced lessons for adults and children - phone 0117 929 0440



Look After Your Vehicle....



Tune up and save

Keeping your car in good shape saves money too:

- Service your car regularly. This will keep the engine tuned and reduce your fuel costs. Most badly polluting cars could be tuned within just 15 minutes. Money spent on servicing now will save you money in the long run.
- Check your fuel consumption. Note your mileage each time you fill up (see back cover).
- Keep your tyres properly inflated. This can make a big difference to fuel economy. Check your tyres at least once a month (check tyres when they are cold - before you have driven the car).

Buying a Car



Size Matters!

The car you drive makes a big difference to your costs. When buying a car you should think about:

Your Lifestyle

What size and type of vehicle do you really need? How far do you drive? Do you carry lots of passengers/luggage?

Size

Do you really need a bigger car? A smaller, more fuel-efficient model can save money on fuel bills, tax and insurance – and reduce emissions. It can work out cheaper to buy a small car and then hire a large one every now and then when you need extra space. Try to buy a vehicle with a 1.4 litre engine or less.

Fuel economy

All cars are not the same. The fuel economy of similar sized cars can vary by as much as 50%. Websites such as www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk or www.eta.co.uk give fuel consumption figures for new cars. Or look in your newsagent for Parkers Guides or similar, that give fuel and insurance information for new and second-hand cars.

The age of the car

Cars older than J Reg (1992) do not have catalytic converters and can pollute more than 10 times as much as a newer car. Many, but not all, newer cars have better fuel consumption.

If you're buying a new car look for the Efficiency label like the ones also used for electrical appliances. Use it to help you buy a more efficient car – if you can't see the label then ask the car dealer.

Fuel Economy		Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi (110ps) GHIA
CO₂ emission figure (g/km)		
<100	A	
101-120	B	
121-150	C	127g/km
151-165	D	
166-185	E	
186+	F	
Fuel cost (estimated) for 12,000 miles		
<small>A fuel cost figure indicates to the consumer a guide fuel price for comparison purposes. This figure is calculated by using the combined drive cycle (town centre and motorway) and average fuel price. Re-calculated annually, the current cost per litre is as follows – petrol 76p, diesel 78p and LPG 33p. (VCA May 2004).</small>		£694
VED for 12 months		
<small>Vehicle excise duty (VED) or road tax varies according to the CO₂ emissions and fuel type of the vehicle.</small>		£115

Other Ways of Cutting Costs...



Many people save money by joining a Car Club or by sharing a car, which can often mean they can sell their second car or even not own a car at all.

Join the City Car Club



Bristol's 'pay as you go' Car Club lets you use a car when you need one without having to own one, so you can save money.

It's easy to use- You just book it on the internet or by phone, unlock it with a smart card and drive!

Car Club cars are located in reserved Car Club parking bays around the city and there are more than 25 cars in Bristol with more coming soon.

Car Club members pay an annual membership fee and an hourly fee charge for use of the cars which covers all costs except fuel - i.e - road tax, MOT, insurance, VAT, maintenance and valeting. Joining the Car Club can be an ideal way of doing away with the need for a second car, or even not needing to buy a car at all.

The Car Club is best suited to people who need a car for some trips but don't commute or need to drive every day. Why not give it a try?

- For more information on the Bristol City Car Club, prices and car locations visit www.citycarclub.co.uk or phone **0845 330 1234**.

Car Sharing

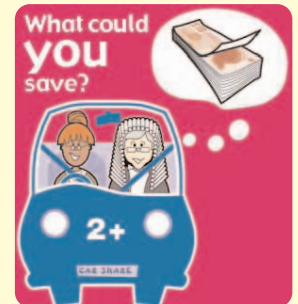


Sharing a trip with a friend, neighbour or colleague can be a good way of helping you cut your travel costs.

If you don't know anyone who is making a similar journey to yours, you could find a car-share partner through

www.2carshare.com, a free, easy-to-use, car sharing scheme that covers Bristol, Bath and the surrounding areas.

Hundreds of 2carshare members have already cut their travel costs by upto £1,000 a year.



What Does Your Car Cost You?



Most people don't realise how much their car costs.

Knowing how much you spend on your car will help you work out how you can save money.

Remember to think about:

- 'Running Costs'. Petrol, oil, tyres, servicing and repairs.
- 'Standing Charges'. Which you pay whether you use your car or not (road tax, insurance, breakdown cover, MOT fees, and the cost of any finance used to buy the car).
- Depreciation (the loss in a car's value as it gets older) is usually the single biggest cost in running a car. A new car can typically lose half of its value within 2 years, with the biggest drop in the first 12 months. For example an £18,000 Ford Focus or £16,000 Vauxhall Astra would both lose around £8,000 in value after two years, costing an average of £4,000 per year on top of the cost of buying and running the car. As cars get older the rate of depreciation slows but is still an important part of your motoring costs.
- The average driver spends £3,600 per year on their car (including depreciation) and if you have an expensive car or drive a lot then you are likely to be spending far more than this. Even if you run an older car the cost is still likely to be over £2,000 per year.



Do you know how many miles per litre/gallon you get out of your car?

Car makers provide fuel consumption figures in their adverts but most people don't get anywhere near this figure - and fuel consumption tends to get worse as your car gets older. Calculating your fuel consumption (see back cover) can tell you how well you're driving or if something is wrong with your car.

It will also tell you how much money you're saving by changing your driving habits.



Remember... the smarter driving tips in this booklet could save you the equivalent of up to 30p a litre on fuel!

How to Calculate Your Fuel Consumption



You won't know if your new driving style and skills are working unless you know the average miles per gallon (mpg) of your car. Some cars have on-board computers, but they are not always accurate.

When you fill up your car, fill the tank to the top and simply make a note of:

1. Your mileage since the last fill
2. The number of litres of fuel you put in
3. The cost per litre of fuel

Then simply use the fuel consumption calculator:

www.bristol-city.gov.uk/fuelcalculator

or phone 0117 9036701 for a copy on CD
(you will need a computer and Microsoft Excel).

Or to work it out yourself:

1. Fill your tank to the top.
2. Zero the trip counter.
3. When you next fill up, note the mileage driven.
4. Fill the tank again and note the number of litres put in.
5. Divide the number of miles driven by the amount of fuel used in litres (miles per litre).
6. To convert the figure to miles per gallon multiply it by 4.544.

EXAMPLE:

Frank does stages one and two above. His trip meter reads 160.1 miles when he next fills up. It takes 22.3 litres to fill his tank. Frank works out that his fuel consumption has been:

160.1 divided by 22.3 = 7.179 miles per litre.

This is 7.179 x 4.544 = 32.62 miles per gallon.

If you would like this information in a different format, for example Braille, audiotape, large print or computer disc, or community languages, please contact Bristol City Council's Transport Planning Team on 0117 903 6701

