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## Did you know?

Personal car travel produces 13% of the UK's total green house gas emissions.

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Hitachi Capital

# Green tips for drivers

## Seven steps to greener driving

Sometimes we all need to use our cars. When you do, making a few simple changes to your driving habits can have a big impact:

1. Anticipate the changes in traffic flow by watching the road ahead. Try to avoid the need to accelerate or break sharply, maintaining a constant speed. A smooth driving style will reduce your fuel consumption and limit your CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
2. Check your tyre pressure regularly. Under inflated tyres increase fuel consumption.
3. Remove unnecessary weight from your car. This could mean taking the clutter out of the boot or removing your roof-rack when you're not using it, any extra weight will increase fuel consumption so make sure you're only transporting the things you'll need.
4. Switch off your engine when idling. The Department for Transport suggests you switch off your engine if you anticipate you will be stationary for three minutes or more.
5. Change gear. Moving up a gear sooner than usual will improve fuel efficiency. Government advice is to move up a gear when a petrol car reaches 2500rpm and at 2000rpm for diesel vehicles.
6. Limit the use of electrical devices. Electrical equipment such as air conditioning and satellite navigation systems increase fuel consumption, only use them when you really need to.
7. Plan your journey. Journey planning doesn't only help to manage driver stress and fatigue, efficient planning can reduce journey time and distance, using less fuel.



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**Being a green driver doesn't mean you have to change your car, there are some simple measures we can all take to help reduce our impact on the environment.**

**The good news is that by reducing your CO<sub>2</sub> emissions not only will you be doing your bit to reduce pollution, using less fuel means that you will make a real difference to the environment, and your pocket.**

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**Do you really need to travel?**

Think about whether you really need to make your journey. Could you work from home, or call rather than visit in person? If you do need to travel, try using your local amenities rather than those further a field.

**Do you need to drive?**

For local journeys, consider walking or cycling. Not only will it be good for the environment and save you money, exercise is good for your health too.

If you can't walk or cycle to your destination, think about using local transport. You could also consider joining a car sharing scheme, ask your employer if they have a scheme in place or check your local council website for schemes in your area.

**Choosing a new car**

When you're planning to buy a new car think about choosing a vehicle that is more environmentally friendly:

- Consider what you will use the car for and choose one that meets your needs. If you usually travel alone, or have a small family, choose a smaller car. Smaller cars with smaller engines are usually more efficient.
- Use our online CO<sub>2</sub> Band Selector to find cars that meet your criteria. You can search for a list of vehicles within a CO<sub>2</sub> range, or on particular vehicle make and model to see its green credentials.
- Different models of the same car can have different carbon emissions. If you are set on a particular car, do some research and choose the model that's the least polluting.

**Disposing of your old car**

If you are not selling your old car and need to dispose of it, you can take it to an Authorised Treatment Facility (ATF).

There are 1,400 of these facilities around the UK and car owners can use them free of charge. Your unwanted car will be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way and you will receive a certificate to show that you are no longer responsible for the vehicle.