

9 Ways To Save Money On Car Expenses

Article by: Matthew Keegan

Gas prices are at historically high levels and the long term trend is indicating more of the same for American drivers. If you operate one or more vehicles, you know that saving money somewhere, *anywhere* is important to maintaining your budget. Here are 9 tips to help you be financially wise when it comes to managing your car expenses.

1. Take a look at your insurance. If your car is worth less than three thousand dollars, consider dropping collision. The money you save can go toward a down payment on your next car.

2. Keep your tires properly inflated. Your gas mileage will drop if your tires are underinflated. Keep your tires at the recommended pressure and your gas mileage will remain steady.

3. Do not change your oil too frequently. Unless you drive exclusively in the city you do not need to change your oil every 3000 miles. Most cars can go up to 7500 miles before needing an oil change. You will still need to change your oil twice yearly even if you drive very infrequently.

4. Do some minor maintenance yourself. You should be able to change your wipers, air filter, battery, and replace a blown out tire yourself. If you rely on others, your costs will increase dramatically.

5. Use regular gas. If your car requires regular gas, do not splurge on premium. Your car will not run any better and you will have paid as much as twenty cents extra per gallon.

6. Don't purchase an extended warranty. The amount of money you pay for an extended warranty is usually more than what the warranty is worth. If you feel that a particular car model requires an extended warranty, perhaps you should consider shopping for something much more reliable.

7. Take it to the car wash. Actually, don't. You'll save plenty of money by washing and waxing your car yourself.

8. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations. The manufacturer of your automobile will know how long parts should last. Change your timing belt before it becomes a problem, your fuel filter at least bi-annually, and keep an eye on your brakes, tires, and shocks. Most cars built today do not need a complete tune up for as long as 100,000 miles, so don't plunk down the \$200 for a tune up before one is actually necessary.

9. Use a private garage. No, you do not have to take your Toyota to the Toyota dealership for maintenance. If you have a good, local garage that is familiar with your make and model you will, more than likely, save money by using them instead.

We're not likely to see gas prices below \$2 per gallon again, while \$3 per gallon may soon be the norm. You cannot control supply and demand, but you can take these steps to ensure that your car does not become a money pit. Matt Keegan is **The Article Writer** covering topics from Aviation to Zoos. Please visit <http://www.thearticlewriter.com> for samples of some of his work.