

## Fuel Economy

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### Fuel Economy Factors

The following factors can lower your vehicle's fuel economy:

- Aggressive driving (hard acceleration and braking)
- Excessive idling, accelerating and braking in stop-and-go traffic
- Cold engine operation (engines are more efficient when warmed up)
- Driving with a heavy load or the air conditioner running
- Improperly inflated tires

### Improving Fuel Economy

#### *Vehicle Maintenance*

A properly maintained vehicle maximizes fuel economy. Poor maintenance can significantly reduce fuel economy. Always maintain your vehicle according to the maintenance messages displayed on the multi-information display (see **Owner's Maintenance Checks** on page 346). For example:

- **Use the recommended viscosity motor oil, displaying the API Certification Seal (see page 349).**
- **Maintain proper tire inflation** – An underinflated tire increases “rolling resistance,” which reduces fuel economy.
- **Avoid carrying excess weight in your vehicle** – It puts a heavier load on the engine, increasing fuel consumption.
- **Keep your vehicle clean** – In particular, a build-up of snow or mud on your vehicle's underside adds weight and rolling resistance. Frequent cleaning helps your fuel economy.

### *Drive Efficiently*

- **Drive moderately** – Rapid acceleration, abrupt cornering, and hard braking increase fuel consumption.
- **Observe the speed limit** – Aerodynamic drag has a big effect on fuel economy at speeds above 45 mph (75 km/h). Reduce your speed and you reduce the drag. Trailers, car top carriers, roof racks and bike racks are also big contributors to increased drag.
- **Avoid excessive idling** – Idling results in 0 miles per gallon (0 kms per liter).