



## Consumer Federation of America

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 24, 2011

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### GAS COSTS: 10 WAYS TO SAVE THIS WEEKEND AND THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

Washington, D.C. – As 31 million travelers take to the road this Memorial Day weekend, 40% said rising gas prices would impact their travel plans. To help cope with nearly \$4 a gallon gas prices, here are CFA's top ten gas-saving tips from Jack Gillis author of *The Car Book* and CFA's Director of Public Affairs. "We estimate that if Americans practiced these tips gas mileage could be improved in total by about 13%," said Jack Gillis. "With the Memorial Day kick-off of the summer driving season, there's no reason consumer should pay for gas they don't need," said Gillis.

	Savings Per Gallon	If you do this:
1	<b>39¢</b>	<b>Check Your Air Filter:</b> A clean air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10%, and nearly one in four cars needs an air filter replacement. Changing a dirty air filter can save the equivalent of 39 cents a gallon or carry you 23 more miles on a typical tank of gas.
2	<b>39¢</b>	<b>Straighten Out:</b> Poor alignment not only causes tires to wear out more quickly, but also forces your engine to work harder, which can reduce gas mileage by as much as 10%. Fixing improper alignment would be like saving 39 cents per gallon.
3	<b>15¢</b>	<b>Tune Up:</b> A properly tuned engine can improve mileage by 4% which is like saving 15 cents a gallon.
4	<b>11¢</b>	<b>Pump 'em Up:</b> More than one-quarter of vehicles have improperly inflated tires. The average under-inflation of 7.5 lbs. causes a loss of 2.8% in fuel efficiency. Properly inflating problem tires is like knocking 11 cents off a gallon of gas.
5	<b>3¢</b>	<b>Check Your Cap:</b> It is estimated that nearly 17% of cars on the road have broken or missing gas caps, which reduce gas mileage as well as possibly harming the environment. Fixing or replacing a faulty gas cap is like saving 3 cents per gallon.
6	<b>6¢</b>	<b>Lose Weight:</b> For every 100 extra pounds carried around, your vehicle loses 1-2% in fuel efficiency. For every 100 lbs you unload, you're saving the equivalent of 6 cents per gallon.

7	<b>27¢</b>	<b>Don't Speed:</b> For every 5 mph you reduce highway speed, you can reduce fuel consumption by 7%. If you typically drive 70 on the highway and slow down to 65, it's the equivalent of saving 27 cents a gallon.
8	<b>68¢</b>	<b>Drive Smoother:</b> The smoother you accelerate and decelerate, the better your gas mileage, with potential gas savings of 33% on the highway and 5% around town. Consumers who currently drive erratically can pocket the equivalent 68 cents a gallon by driving more smoothly.
9	<b>\$1.35</b>	<b>Foot Off:</b> Riding with your foot on the brake not only wears out brakes but can also reduce gas consumption by as much as 35%. If you kick the habit of driving with your foot on the brake, you'll get the equivalent of \$1.35 per gallon in savings.
10	<b>1¢</b>	<b>Don't Idle:</b> If stopped off the road for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine. Don't "warm up" your car before driving -- it is not necessary. For every two minutes that you don't idle, you'll save the equivalent of nearly 1 cent per gallon.

Savings based on May 2011 gas prices at \$3.85.

*The Consumer Federation of America is an association of nearly 300 nonprofit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education.*