



Saving on Fuel Costs

Fuel costs account for 25% of the total cost of a fleet.

These costs can be reduced with the help of proper driving and vehicle maintenance behaviour.

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Best Practices For Saving On Fuel

*Correct tyre pressure, shifting gears in time or switch off the engine when stationary —
There are many ways to save fuel. With our tips you can easily reduce fuel consumption.*

Before you dig deep into our bag of tricks to save fuel, there are a few things to consider. Anyone who procures company cars should first check what purposes the company has for the vehicles. A vehicle should only be as large as necessary, and as small as possible. By purchasing vehicles with this in mind, the engine power and fuel consumption are reduced inherently. Furthermore, if you are only travelling in the city with lots of slow-moving traffic, a hybrid model vehicle can really pay off.



Driving Behaviour Training For Employees

Save with effective company car regulations

Your employees should not be underestimated when it comes to factors for reducing fuel use. Company car regulations can be used to define upper limits for fuel consumption. Anyone who exceeds the defined limit pays a fixed monthly amount per litre above the standard consumption.

Driver training

Not a new insight, but it cannot be stressed enough: A fuel-efficient driving style can reduce consumption by an average of ten percent, in some cases even by up to 20 percent. Eco-driving training for all employees helps here. With this training employees learn how driving behaviour influences the fuel consumption of their vehicle.



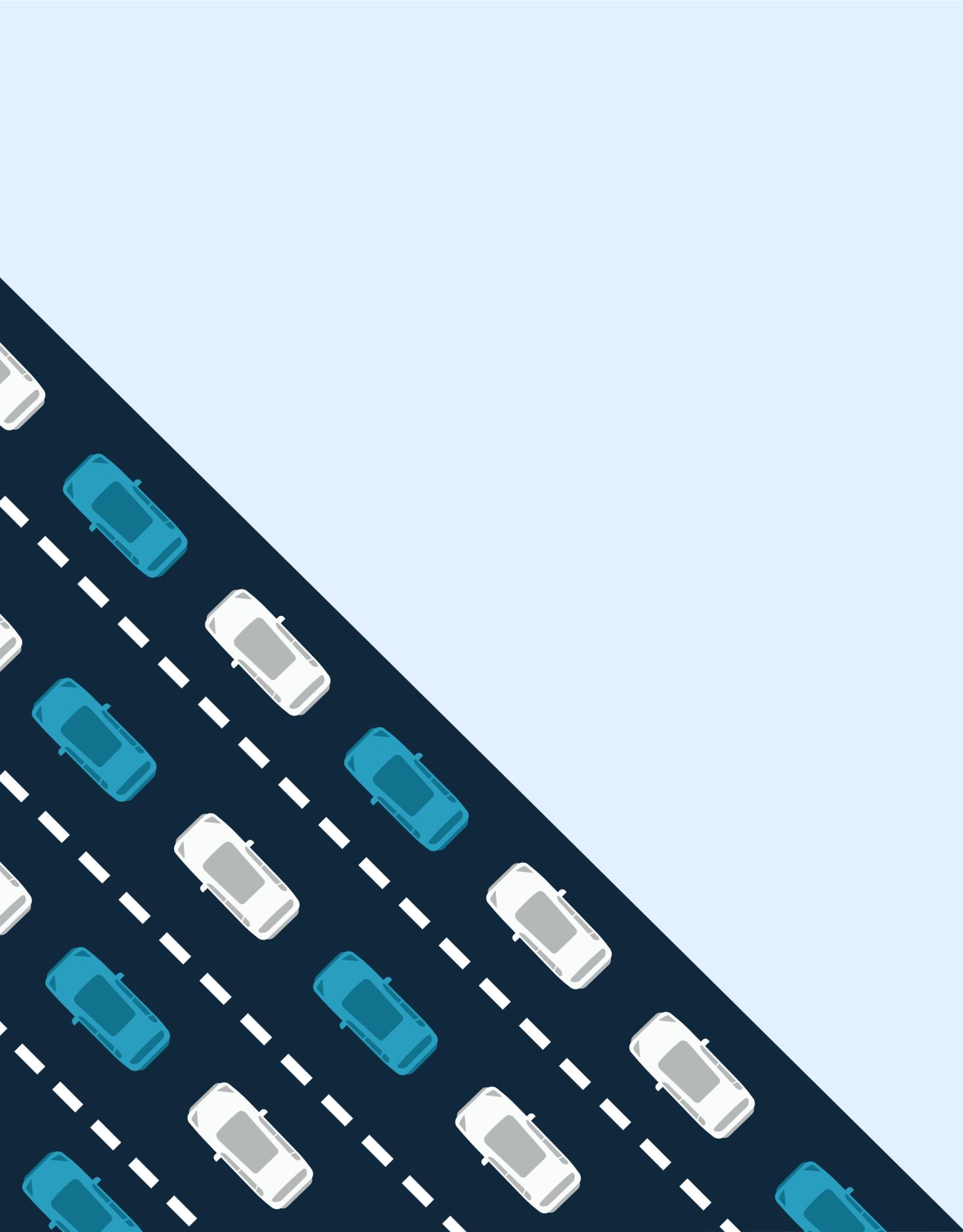
Avoid rush hours and traffic jams

Drivers in the UK spend an average of 115 hours a year in traffic jams. In large cities, you need even more patience on the roads. In 2019, drivers in large European cities lost an average of 154 hours in dense traffic and traffic jams, as calculated by the traffic data provider Inrix. Traffic jams can have a major impact on the efficiency of your business — such as increased vehicle wear and tear, as well as higher fuel costs. Therefore, rush hours should be avoided if possible. Apps can help drivers to recognise and avoid many traffic jams at an early stage.

Remove unnecessary equipment

Extra luggage, such as suitcases or boxes that are lying around inside a vehicle, can significantly increase the weight of the car. This is one more reason to clean out your car of unused and unnecessary equipment. A roof box only belongs on the car when it is actually needed. Even when empty a car roof box weighs between 15 and 20 kilos and its air resistance can quickly lead to an additional consumption of 1.5 litres of fuel per 100 miles.





Quick upshift

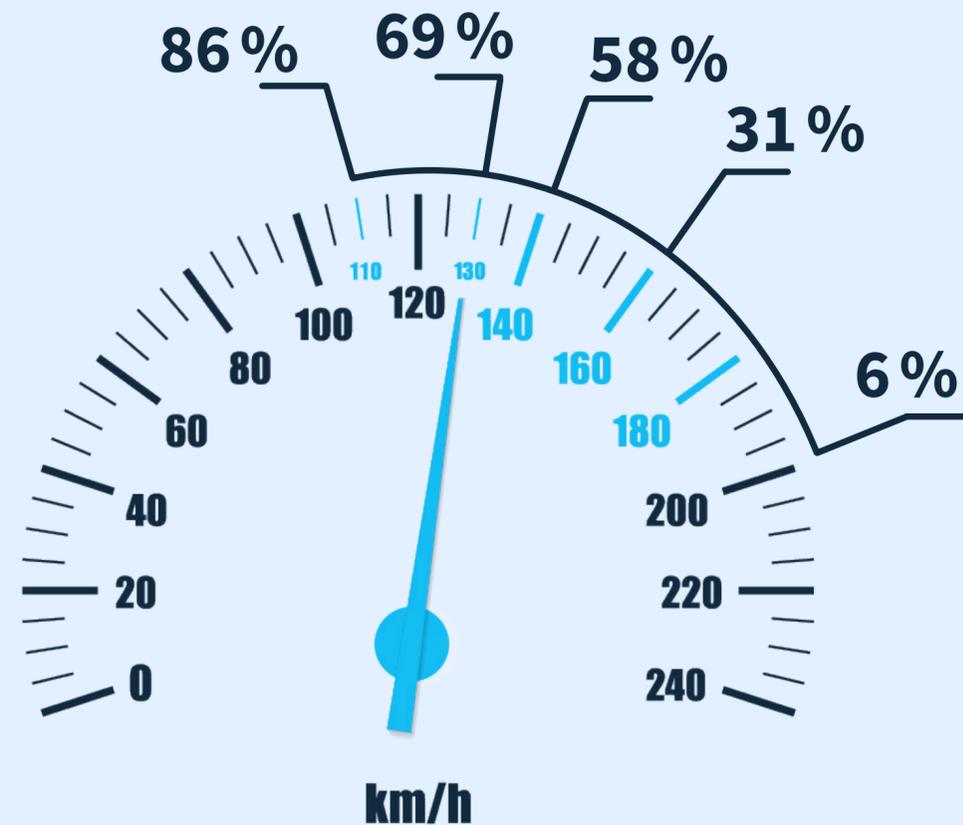
For drivers who tend to push the speed limit, you probably already find yourself visiting the petrol station quite often. This can also be the case for rapid acceleration without full throttle. It is best to shift up at about 2000 rpm. Driving in fourth gear instead of second at 30 mph reduces fuel consumption by about half.

Maintain distance

Always keep sufficient distance from the vehicle in front of your vehicle and observe the traffic. Every braking action reduces kinetic energy, which you then have to supply again by accelerating. Avoiding, as much as one can, constantly starting and stopping while in traffic will help save fuel.

Maximum speed of the vehicles

Number of vehicles that are speeding at least once per month than:



*3.500 Vehicles in June / July.

Slow down at traffic lights

If you can foresee that the traffic lights will jump from green to red, simply take your foot off the accelerator and allow the vehicle to roll through the intersection. Because of the engine's thrust cut-off, no more fuel will flow.

When waiting at traffic lights or in a traffic jam, you can switch off the engine — provided the break lasts longer than 20 seconds. In newer cars, the automatic start-stop system switches the engine off automatically. Drivers of automatic cars can select the eco-mode in the shift programme. As soon as the engine is running, it consumes fuel — even when the car is not moving (about 0.1 to 0.3 gallons per hour).

Avoid speeding

Apart from a possible adrenaline rush, speeding does not have many benefits. On the contrary, it has a lot of downsides. In addition to environmental pollution, fuel consumption also increases significantly. Even at a speed of 100 mph a car consumes almost 40 percent more than at 80 mph. Not to mention the cost of a ticket or the heightened risk for an accident. Slow down.



Handle Vehicles Properly

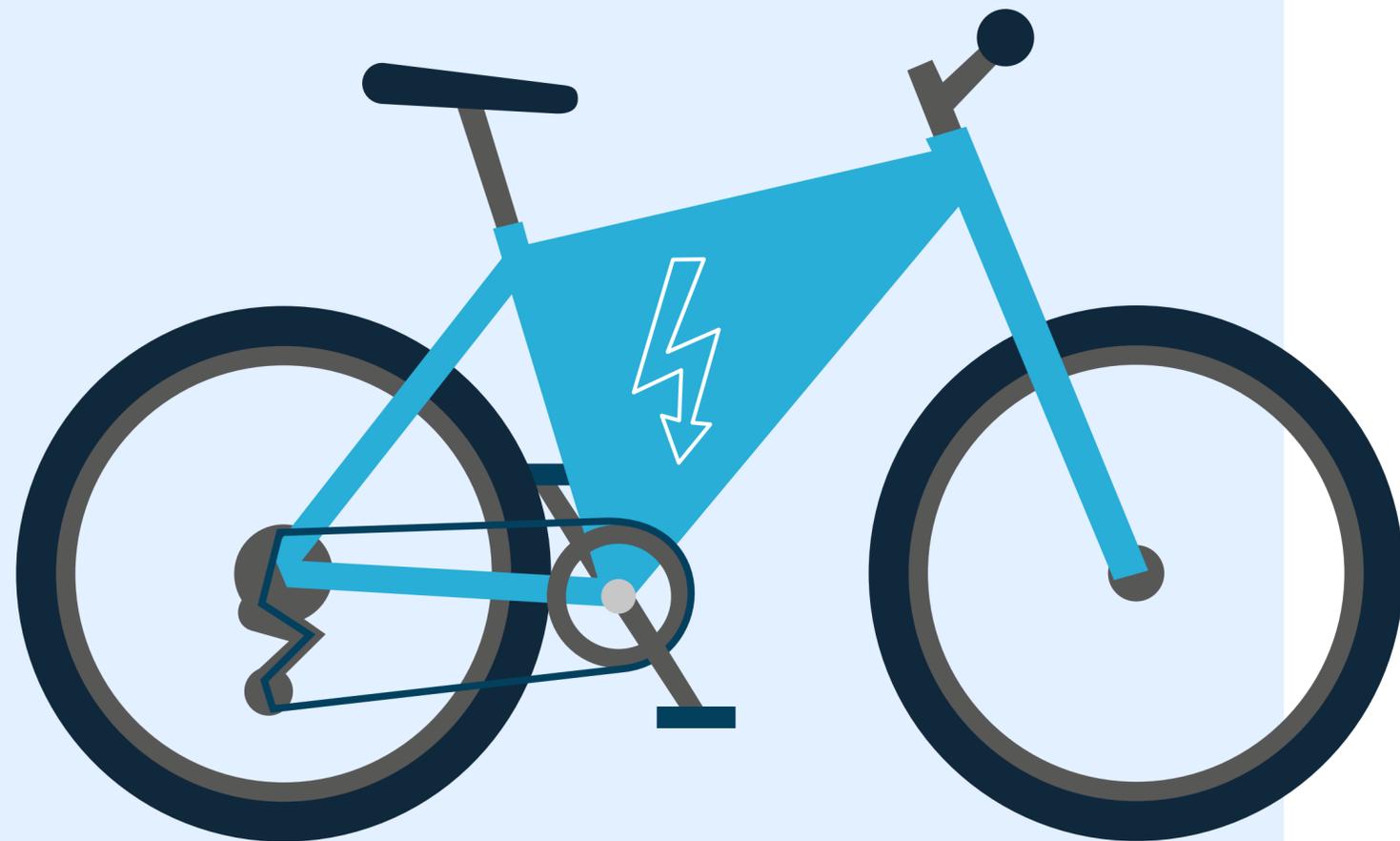
Check the tyre's fine print

Pressure in life is bad, pressure on tyres is good. Too little air pressure in your tyre means that the tyre only runs on its sidewalls. As a result, it offers little grip and the steering reacts poorly. Much more serious, however, is the increase in fuel consumption: if the air pressure is even 0.2 BAR too low, fuel consumption increases by a tenth. Too high air pressure means reduced grip and a longer braking distance. A regular check of the air pressure according to the manufacturer's specifications reduces these risks.

Use energy-saving tyres

Yes, there are so-called energy-saving tyres. The influence of tyres on driving resistance is considerable, 20% of a car's fuel consumption is due to the tyre. Optimised tyres can save up to a quarter of a gallon of fuel per 62 miles. This means that a tyre with very low rolling resistance, which at first glance appears expensive, can more than pay for itself over its useful life.





Bicycle short distances

Cold engines are known to be particularly thirsty for petrol. For short distances it is therefore better to change to a bicycle or to combine several different transportation options with a longer journey. In winter, you should avoid letting the engine warm up when stationary — it pollutes the environment, costs unnecessary fuel and damages the engine.

Switch off unnecessary electronics

Electrical devices in the car, such as control units, lighting, safety and comfort equipment, draw their energy from the vehicle electrical system. The electrical energy is provided by the generator, which is driven by the combustion engine. Consequently, wretched-on electrical appliances cost fuel.

In contrast to the driving resistance, the electrical energy requirement does not depend on the distance travelled or the speed, but on time, in other words: the duration of use. An auxiliary heater costs about 0.1 gallons per hour for additional consumption. However, in order to avoid the fuel bill becoming too high, you should limit the amount of time these electronics are on.



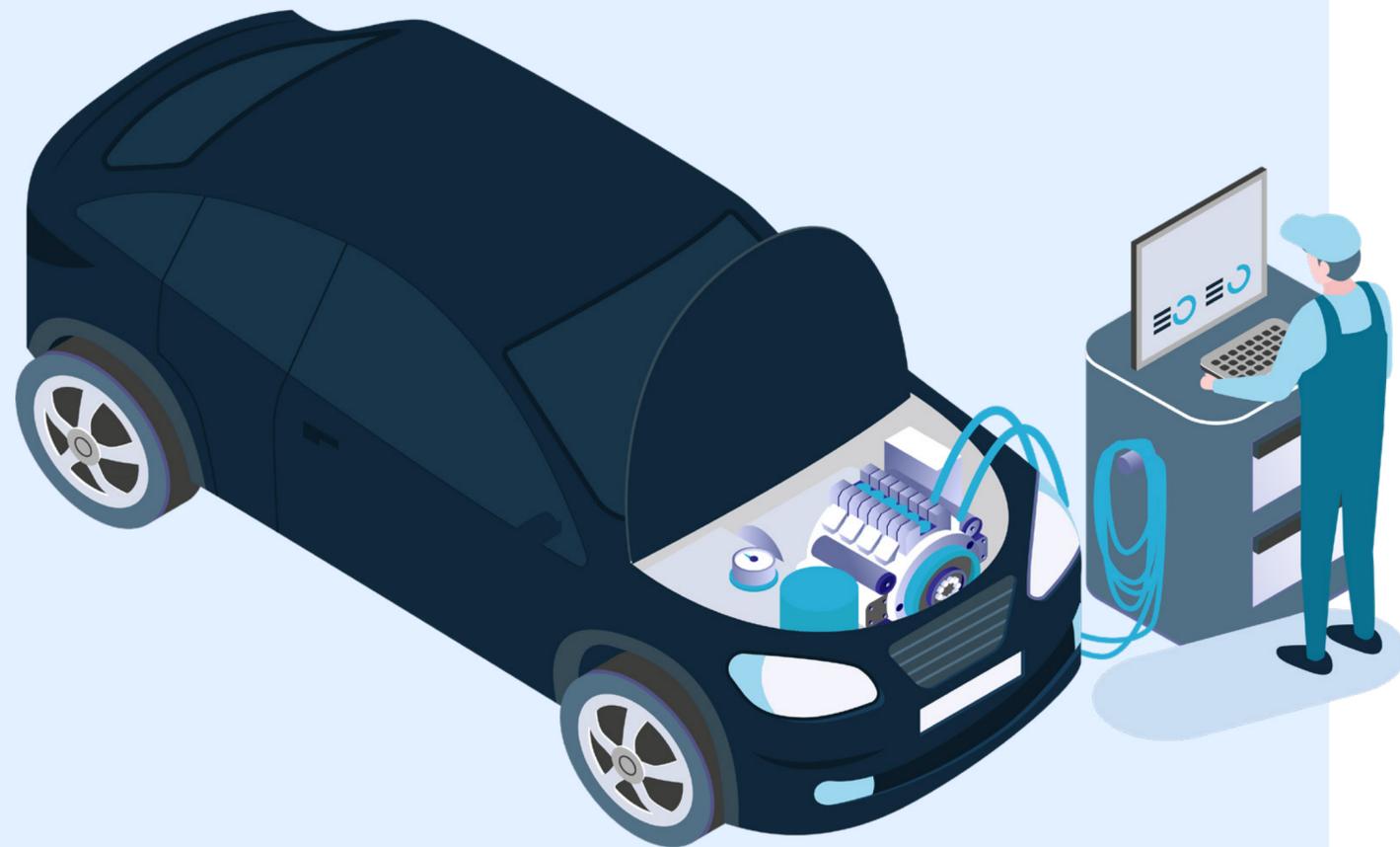
Avoid open windows

If you do not have air conditioning on board, an open window should provide the necessary cooling. However, doing so worsens the aerodynamics. Open windows or sunroofs impair the air flow against the car, costing fuel. For example, windows open on both sides at 60 mph leads to about 0.1 gallons more fuel consumption. At low speeds, such as in city traffic, open windows can provide a significant consumption advantage over air conditioning. Roof racks or other roof structures also result in more air resistance. Anyone who relies on roof bars should make sure that they are correctly adapted and as streamlined as possible to reduce air resistance. Otherwise, it is best to dismantle the structure.

Limit use of air conditioning

Sure, vehicle air conditioning is a real blessing. It cools and makes driving in the middle of summer more pleasant. But it is also a real gas guzzler. Depending on the device and the performance required of it, a car consumes about 10 to 15 percent more fuel every 65 miles with the air conditioning switched on.

In traffic with frequent starts and stops having the AC on can lead up to half a gallon more of fuel used. Consistent use of the air conditioning system should therefore be preserved for the height of summer.



Maintain regular maintenance

For many, this may be a solution that does not immediately come into focus. It is important to have the vehicle inspected on a regular basis. There are many spare parts that are relevant to fuel consumption – such as the engine air filter.

Just as important for favourable consumption values are regular oil changes, which should always be carried out with a modern low-friction oil or according to the vehicle manufacturer's specifications.

Clean the air filter

Like us humans, cars need sufficient oxygen to function. Therefore it is particularly important to ensure a clean air filter. A heavily soiled filter can increase fuel consumption by up to 7%.

In most cases, the filter only needs to be cleaned properly and not replaced. In almost all cars, the air filter can be removed in just a few easy steps.

Saving Costs In The Long Term

Analyse driving behaviour

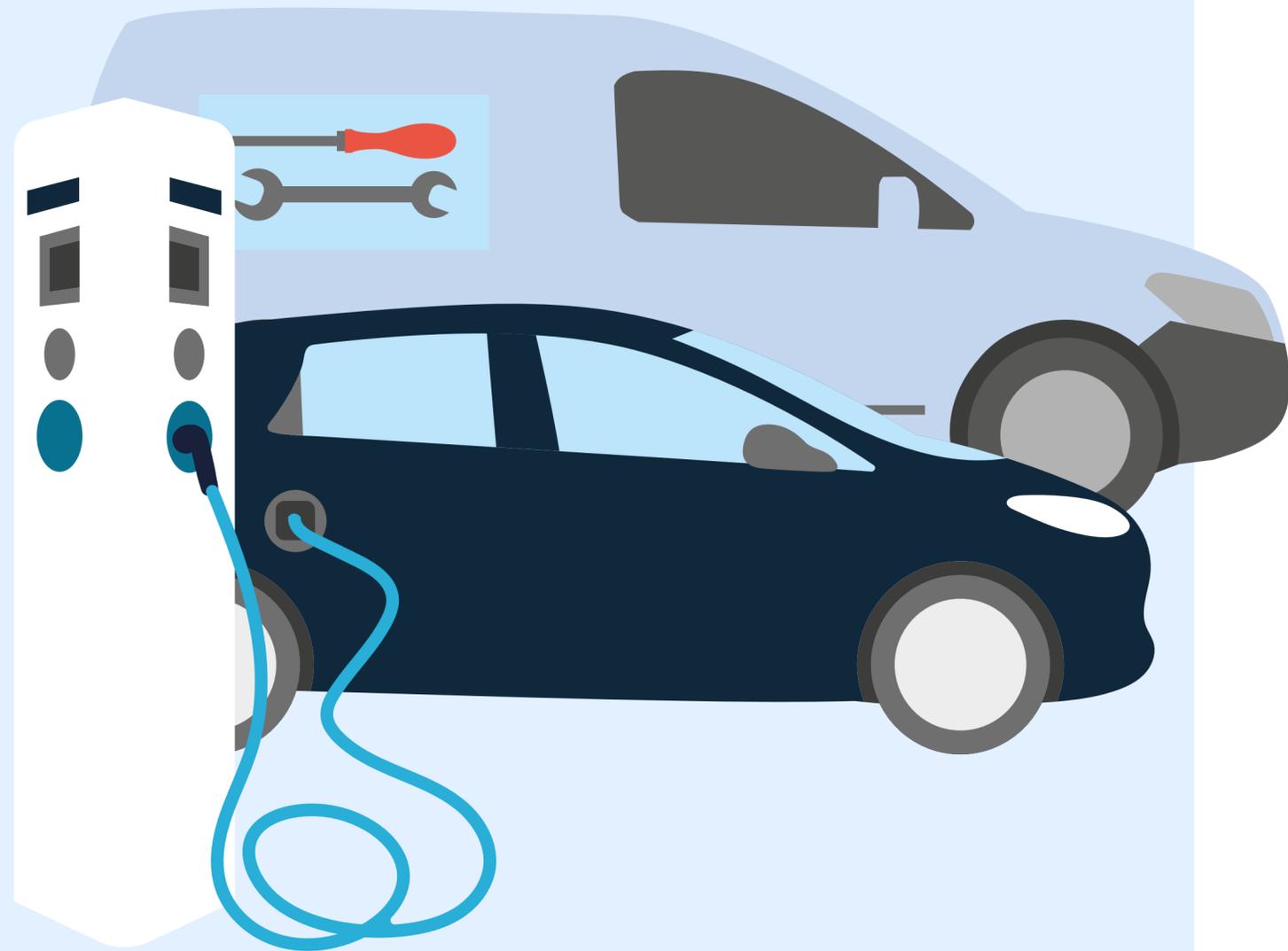
Many drivers have acquired habits over the course of time which drastically increase their fuel consumption. Whether speeding, accelerating strongly, braking or idling for a long time – a lot can be optimised by analysing their driving behaviour. One possibility for optimisation is to install a telematics system in your vehicles. The information collected can help reduce situations such as speeding and rapid acceleration, optimise routes and prevent unauthorised vehicle use. Ultimately reducing fuel consumption.

Fuel cards

There are also benefits from tools such as fuel card accounts. Fuel cards provide detailed reports showing fuel consumption, efficiency and fuel expenses. This method enables fleet managers to identify all inefficient processes and improve them through the results.

No matter how many cards the company issues fuel cards give you access to the best prices on the market and discounts at selected petrol stations and brands.



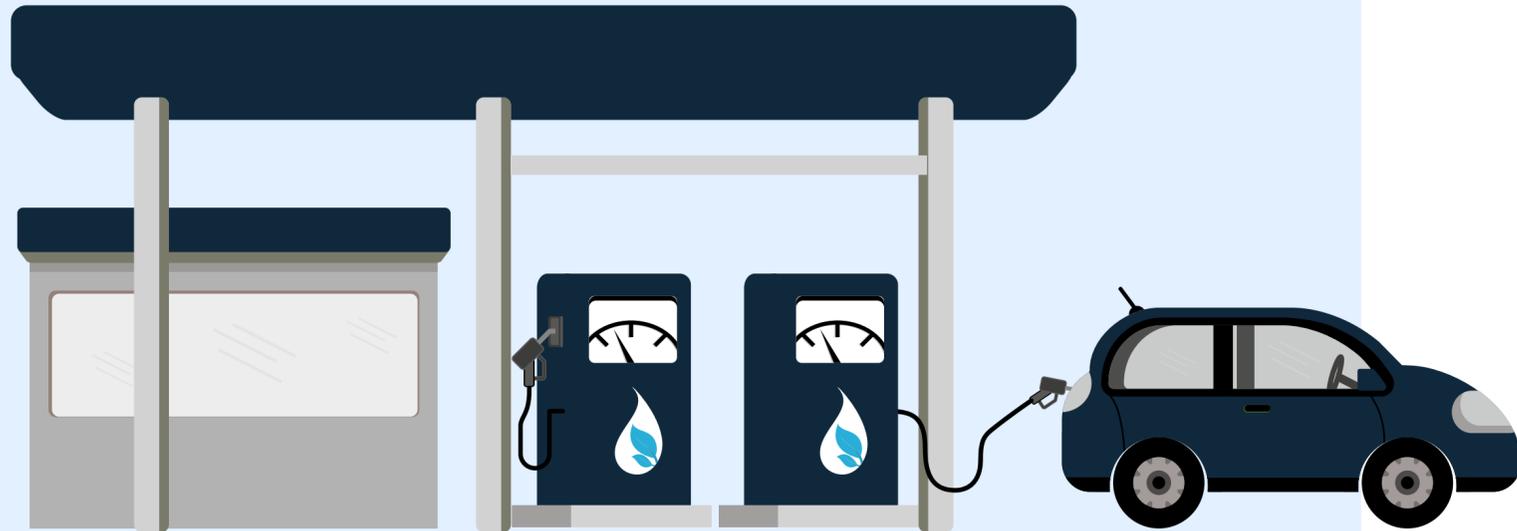


Select simple fuel

At the pumps, petrol stations advertise super fuels which are said to be particularly good for the engine. But the purchase of these fuels cripples the wallet – and worse the quality does not change significantly.

Drive with cruise control

Particularly on the motorway during longer journeys, using cruise control helps save fuel because it applies the throttle more evenly. If a vehicle has cruise control, it can be used to drive smoothly and maintain a constant speed. However, be careful on mountain stages or hilly roads. Here using cruise control can actually cost you unnecessary fuel.



Avoid deep discharge of the battery

About 0.03 gallons per 65 miles of fuel savings can be achieved with a fully charged car battery. Every time you discharge a car's battery you shorten its operational lifespan. Particularly in winter, the batteries tend to discharge themselves because the low temperatures increase the energy consumption of the vehicle. As a result, more energy is required than the alternator can recharge. On short journeys of less than six miles problems can arise because the battery has not charged quickly enough.

Using natural gas

Natural gas has several advantages. Natural gas cars are cheaper in operation than petrol cars, and fuel costs are below diesel levels despite the petrol engine used. Additionally, they have a better CO₂ balance and lower pollutant emissions than diesel and petrol engines.



Petrol station selection

Fuel prices can vary significantly depending on the petrol station. By selecting the cheapest petrol station fuel costs can be saved. If the petrol stations are close together and the wait time for the cheaper price is not too long, the cheaper alternative should be considered. By optimising the choice of petrol station locations, more than 4% of fuel costs can be saved annually.

Refuelling at the right time

The cost of fuel may vary not only by location but also by time. Normally, prices are highest in the morning hours and decrease during the day. Good time management can save more than 5% of fuel costs per year.

Example:
 Gary fills up his car for 1.30 €/l on Monday at 9:00 am. However, if he had filled up the vehicle at 18:00 on the same day, he would have only had to pay 1.10 €/l.



**Have any further questions?
We will gladly help you!**

Our fleet experts will be happy to support you – from a non-binding initial consultation to general fleet management support – Vimcar cares about your fleet.

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