

Travelwise is a national travel awareness scheme that encourages the use of greener and healthier travel options in your region and beyond. We work hand-in-hand with Network West Midlands, who connect the bus, train and Metro with walkways and cycle paths and clear information, so planning and making journeys easier.

[www.travelinewestmids.org.uk](http://www.travelinewestmids.org.uk)



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Your guide to  
smart driving





# On the move for less

- Driving techniques
- Journey planning
- Maintenance
- Alternative Fuels
- Cut your car use

## Be kind to your car (and your pocket)

There is a direct link between looking after your car and reducing both the cost of running it and the impact that it has on the environment.



## Drive Smart, Save More, Pollute less

- Keep tyre pressures at the optimum level. Flat tyres use more fuel and over-inflation causes uneven tyre wear and reduces grip.
- Service your car regularly. Get the engine tuned, the wheels aligned and the catalytic converter checked. 90% of badly polluting vehicles can be retuned at a garage within 15mins.
- Remove your roofrack or roof box when your not using it – you could be wasting up to 40% extra fuel.
- Empty your boot – the more weight you carry, the poorer the fuel efficiency.
- Use air-conditioning sparingly. In a petrol vehicle it uses on average 15% more fuel and, in a diesel car it can increase consumption by 40%. Switching on anything electric – rear screen heater, mobile phone charger – has a similar effect.
- Limit short journeys where possible. They can reduce the life of your engine and are the most damaging to the environment.
- Engine wear is higher on short journeys, as lubricants have not reached the correct temperature.
- Your first kilometre produces 60% more fumes than when the engine warmed up.
- Catalytic converters are only effective for journeys over 5 miles.





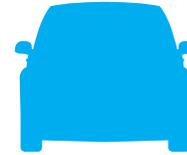
## Be smooth

Accelerating and breaking increases fuel consumption by 20%. Sharp acceleration produces 50% more pollution so drive smoothly, especially in a slow moving queue.



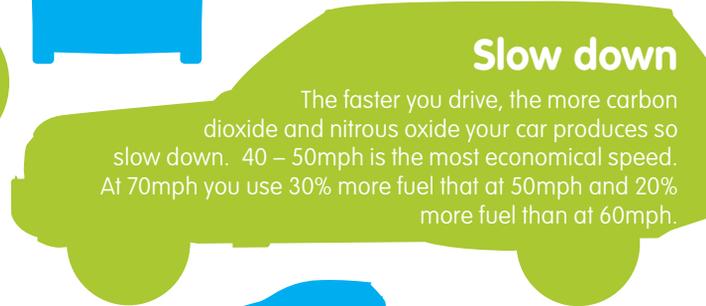
## Drive off

An idling engine produces 80% more pollution than when a vehicle is in motion, so drive off soon after starting the engine. There is no need to 'warm up' the engine, modern cars warm up faster on being driven.



## In a queue

If you sit in the car with the engine running, your engine produces more pollution, your catalytic converter doesn't work properly and you waste fuel. It's better to switch off your engine in stationart traffic; restarting the engine uses less energy than 10 seconds of idling.



## Slow down

The faster you drive, the more carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide your car produces so slow down. 40 – 50mph is the most economical speed. At 70mph you use 30% more fuel that at 50mph and 20% more fuel than at 60mph.



# Smart driving techniques



## Read the road

By reading the road and traffic conditions ahead of you, you can adjust the speed of your car without the need for unnecessary acceleration or breaking.



## Get in gear

Change up to a higher gear as soon as the car is ready.





## Alternative fuels and cleaner vehicles

When choosing a car, a smaller one will save you money on fuel and cost you less in tax.

Both Vehicle Excise Duty for new cars and Company Car tax are now based on the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the vehicle. Fuel consumption of similar size cars can vary by as much as 45%. The Vehicle Certification Agency has comprehensive details of fuel consumption, tax classes and exhaust pollution levels for most new car models. Access their database at [www.vcarfueldata.org.uk](http://www.vcarfueldata.org.uk) or call **0117 951 5151** for more information.

### Petrol v Diesel

There is no easy answer. Both types produce harmful exhaust gases. If you tend to make mainly urban journeys, you should choose a small petrol car. Smaller cars use less fuel, causes less congestion and are easier to park. Diesels produce more particles, which can aggravate asthma. Log onto the Energy Savings Trust website [www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk) for more information on cleaner fuel availability.

### Bio diesel

made from recycled vegetable oil, is now available. Most diesel engines can use a blend of bio diesel without any modification. Burning recycled vegetable oil does not add to CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, and it is generally cheaper than fossil diesel. However, it is unwise to buy biofuel produced from foreign plantations. Contact Longma Bio-Fuels, 01432 263484



### Hybrid vehicles

have both an electric motor and a petrol engine. They do not need to be plugged in to be recharged, as this is done by the petrol engine and braking system. Hybrids have impressive fuel economy and low emissions. Currently Toyota, Honda and Lexus have hybrid models available.

### Electric vehicles

produce low noise, emit zero emissions at the point of use and can also be cheap to run (as little as 1p per mile). They currently best suit people who use their cars for short urban trips.

### LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) vehicles

generally produce fewer pollutants than petrol-only cars. The fuel system automatically reverts to petrol should the vehicle run out of gas. A range of manufacturers now offer dual-fuel vehicles and LPG is considerably cheaper than unleaded petrol.





## Cut your car use (and feel the benefits)

Although cars are useful, and sometimes essential, owning a car is incredibly expensive. Many people do not realise just how much of a dent in their finances a car can make, and some people are finding that hiring a car when they need one can be a better option.

If you drive a small second hand car 5,000 miles a year, it will cost you around £?????, i.e. £? Per day or ??per mile. By comparison, a bike, including purchase, depreciation, insurance, servicing, spares and waterproof clothing will cost under £200 per year.



## Give your car a break

- Why not try car sharing and see how much you could cut the cost of travelling, save wear and tear on your car and reduce the stress of driving.
- Consider walking or cycling instead, particularly for short journeys. You maybe surprised at how quickly you can get about by foot and bike, when you can bypass traffic congestion and avoid searching for a parking space. Walking and cycling are also the healthiest ways to get around and an easy way to fit regular exercise into busy lives.
- Where you can, take the opportunity to avoid making journeys. Home shopping can be a convenient solution, saving time as well as vehicle miles. Also, many more employers now support occasional working from home and more flexible working.
- If you need to travel during the course of your work, ask your company to provide pool bikes or pool cars so that you can walk, cycle or take public transport to work.





# Plan your journey

Motorists waste 350,000 tonnes of fuel per year getting lost. Roadworks can also cause long delays. To minimise loss of time and fuel, there are a number of free sources of up to date travel information to help you plan your journeys:

[www.help2travel.org.uk](http://www.help2travel.org.uk)

[www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

[www.rac.co.uk](http://www.rac.co.uk)

[www.theaa.co.uk](http://www.theaa.co.uk)

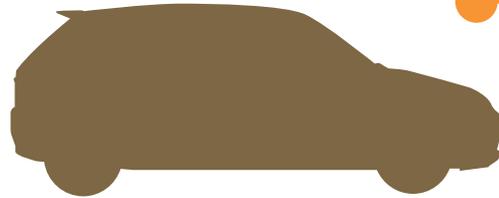
[www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info)

[www.networkwestmidlands.com](http://www.networkwestmidlands.com)

Alternatively, you can use the following help-lines:

**Highways Agency 08457 50 40 30**

**Traveline 0871 200 22 33**



For more information about alternative fuels, cleaner vehicles, cutting your car use and advanced driving techniques, visit our website:

**[www.travelwisewestmids.org.uk](http://www.travelwisewestmids.org.uk)**

TravelWise is the local authorities' campaign for travel awareness. It promotes sensible car use and aims to make other methods of transport, such as cycling, walking and using public transport, a real alternative to the car. At the heart of TravelWise is the belief that individuals can make a difference; so that everyone may be part of the solution not the problem.

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information, technological changes and prices will affect the data over time and West Midlands TravelWise can accept no responsibility for the accuracy of the information.

