

Drive on a Dime

Beat high fuel prices this summer with tips from International Truck and Engine Corporation.

By Kyla Hollister

SUMMER'S HERE AND THAT MEANS INCREASED TRAVEL FOR many horse owners. With gas and diesel prices reaching record highs, getting the most out of your fuel tank is more important than ever. The International Truck and Engine Corporation, designer and manufacturer of Power Stroke Diesel Engines for AQHA Corporate Partner Ford, offers tips to help you get maximum fuel efficiency for your buck.

Vehicle Maintenance Increases Fuel Mileage

GOOD FUEL MILEAGE BEGINS BEFORE YOU HIT THE ROAD. Regular maintenance increases the longevity of your vehicle and saves dollars at the pump.

"Since we can't control the price of fuel, the best ways to keep fuel costs down are to learn how to properly maintain your vehicle and how to handle your vehicle on the road," said Shane Spencer, manager of applications engineering for International Truck and Engine Corporation. Here are International's tips to increase fuel efficiency:

- Check and replace air filters regularly – Replacing a clogged air filter can improve a vehicle's fuel mileage as much as 10 percent.
- Keep tires properly inflated – Check tire pressure once a week to maintain optimum air pressure.

- Use the recommended grade of motor oil – Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve fuel economy 1-2 percent.

Smart Driving Equals Good Fuel Mileage

DURING THE BUSY SUMMER MONTHS, YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF running late and speeding to the next show. This might be the only alternative in some cases, but slow, consistent driving pays off in the long run. Sensible driving is always recommended for on-road safety. Practice these tips while driving:

- Avoid aggressive driving – Speeding, accelerating or braking too quickly waste fuel.
- Observe the speed limit – Fuel mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph you exceed 60 mph can mean an additional 10 cents per gallon.
- Avoid excess idling – Vehicles with larger engines typically waste more fuel when idling than those with smaller engines.
- Use cruise control – Using cruise control on the highway helps maintain a constant speed and saves fuel.
- Use overdrive gears – Using overdrive gearing causes engine speed to decrease, saving fuel and reducing engine wear.



- Use high gears – Use the highest gear to achieve the lowest engine rpm that generates adequate power to maintain road speed with a given load.
- You can practice additional tips and tricks to get the most bang for your fuel-pump buck. Truck owners who like to modify their vehicles should pay attention to how accessories and body changes affect fuel economy.

“Dually trucks get less fuel economy, because there is more wheel surface contacting the ground,” Spencer said. “Big mirrors also create drag, reducing fuel economy benefits of the aerodynamic truck design. Some bug shields, however, are designed to maximize aerodynamics to improve fuel economy.”

The Advantages of Diesel

TYPICALLY, DIESELS DELIVER 30-PERCENT BETTER MILEAGE THAN gasoline. In more demanding jobs such as towing, diesels

National Fuel Averages May 2004

Regular Unleaded - \$2.05 Diesel - \$1.82

*according to www.fuelgaugereport.com

can show up to 50-percent better mileage, depending on transmission, gear ratios and mission description.

“Diesels deliver better fuel economy than gasoline engines, making them a better choice for those who are looking to save money in the long run,” Spencer said. “The popularity of diesel is growing, due to its superior power and durability, as well as fuel economy. We’re seeing more auto makers beginning to offer a diesel option.”

The Future of Fuel Prices

BECAUSE OF INCREASED DEMAND DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS and other factors, fuel prices are expected to rise. Instead of shortening your show schedule, practice these tips to save money and get the maximum miles per gallon from your vehicle. 📌

Diesel Engine vs. Gas Engine

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Higher fuel efficiency when towing | • Lower initial cost |
| • Cheaper fuel prices | • Lower maintenance cost |
| • Better torque | • Better acceleration |
| • Longer lasting | |