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Consider Fuel Efficiency When Buying a Car

By Fisher Swanson

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When you need to buy your next automobile make sure that fuel economy doesn't get lost in the shuffle. Buying a compact car with good gas mileage is both friendly to the environment and your pocket book. You will enjoy the savings throughout the life of the vehicle.

There is a lot to consider when buying a car. If you are buying a used car the condition of the clutch, brakes, engine and transmission will play a huge role in how much that car will cost to operate. Even minor problems can result in \$300 repairs.

With new cars you need to find the make and model that has a proven track record and fits your needs. Make sure that fuel efficiency plays a role in your decision making. If you emerge from the car buying process with a fuel efficient car you will burn up less cash in your tank and have more money to spend on things that matter.

Take advantage of what is known.

When it comes to vehicle maintenance, the one thing you can easily and accurately predict is how much gas you are going to use. Gas prices may fluctuate but most people can spend a week or two logging their gas consumption and get a good idea of how many gallons they use. If you don't already, track your gas consumption so you can use this information when purchasing a car.

Make it the #1 priority.

One way to make sure that fuel efficiency is considered is to start by looking at cars that get good gas mileage. Make it the #1 priority and see where that leads you. The problem with today's car market is car manufacturers know that gas mileage is not a major consideration when purchasing a new vehicle for many U.S. customers.

Consider Fuel Efficiency When Buying a Car

Crunching the numbers.

When you are evaluating a car's fuel efficiency, ask yourself how long you think you will be driving the car and determine how much gas will cost.

Let's say you want to get a used car for \$5,000 and hope to drive it for 5 years. Below are some 5 year gas cost estimates based on driving 15,000 miles per year and buying gas for \$1.40 per gallon. If gasoline is more expensive than \$1.40, the costs will be even higher.

A Sampling of Used Cars:

1994 Ford Explorer SUV (2WD)
5 year gas estimate = \$5525

1994 Honda Accord Sedan
5 year gas estimate = \$3885

1994 Honda Civic DX Sedan
5 year gas estimate = \$2385

A Sampling of New Cars:

2004 Ford Explorer 2WD
5 year gas estimate = \$6175

2004 Honda Accord
5 year gas estimate = \$3750

2004 Honda Civic Hybrid
5 year gas estimate = \$2235

2004 Toyota Prius Hybrid
5 year gas estimate = \$1910

This is a small sampling of cars but you get the picture. Unless you really need an SUV or large truck, you can save a lot of money by buying a fuel efficient compact car. You will sacrifice size and sometimes luxury when choosing fuel economy first. Part of this is because bigger cars and trucks are heavier and will naturally get worse gas mileage. But it is also a function of consumers not worrying about gas mileage when they make a decision on purchasing a new or used car.

A great site for comparing cars fuel economy is www.fueleconomy.org. At www.fueleconomy.org you can compare numerous makes and models of both new and used cars and set the default gas costs to reflect the current prices. The numbers above are based on a \$1.40 regular gas price which is really hard to find right now. In the case of the 1994 Ford Explorer you likely pay as much in gas over a 5 year span as you payed for the vehicle in the first place.

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Put fuel economy first and you will find yourself with more money in your pocket.

Fisher Swanson is a regular contributor to The ThriftyFun.com News. ThriftyFun publishes information about thrifty living. Send an email to thriftyfunnews-on@thriftyfun.com to subscribe to The ThriftyFun.com News.

Do You Know What Kind Of Car Fuel Efficiency You're Getting?

By I Henman

Forget about the old days when getting gas for your car was no problem at all. Lousy eight cylinder limos were the craze, no matter what big gas guzzlers these monsters were. Today their place has been taken over by the SUV and they are no small gas consumers either. If you think you are getting 40 miles to a gallon, you must be mad. The maximum that these wide-bodied thick tired vehicles are capable of is actually half of that. Still, people are crazy about the SUV for the mere look of affluence linked to these super models, ignoring the car fuel efficiency part of it. But today gasoline costs around 3.10 per gallon and the way these automobiles drink it down, there really seems to be no tomorrow. With skyrocketing fuel prices all over the States, SUV need not be the prudent choice for the average family yet the trend shows little decline in sales.

If car fuel efficiency is the key word for choosing an automobile, what would you prefer - a six -cylinder affair or a four-cylinder jukebox would do. Obviously, the smaller the number of cylinders, better the mileage. Also, lighter the body, lesser the fuel consumption. But why the heck is fuel costing so much these days? Of course war is raging in the middle-east that produces most of the fuel the world consumes, but I was told that 80% of the fuel consumed in the USA comes from Canada. Then should we wage a war against them? I am really confused.

Japan, as I was told, is soon becoming a world leader in car manufacturing has now turned its head from making comfortable cars to economy models, car fuel efficiency being of topmost concern. Japanese engineers have done away with the age-old carburetor system for mixing air with fuel and have replaced it with a newer device that consumes lesser fuel. Also available in the market are a newer brand of hybrid cars, valued for their reported car fuel efficiency.

Another approach on the subject of car fuel efficiency is aimed at running vehicles with LPG (light petroleum gas). Cutting out the risk of sudden fire, in case of a gas leak, the LPG run vehicles are cleaner, pollution-free and may be termed as a model of car fuel efficiency. Let us see what the future holds for us in matters relating to car fuel efficiency - the battery-cum fuel operated car?

For more tips on cars, turcks, and fuel consumption check out our website at

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