# Drive Your Best to SAVE FUEL & KEEP COLORADO'S AIR CLEAN



**Fuel efficiency isn't just about what you drive. It's also about <u>how</u> you drive** your Crown Victoria, van, shuttle, bus, limo, or other vehicle.

Here are the top three proven tips to improve your fuel efficiency and keep money in your pocket:

1) TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF WHEN YOU STOP!

Idling wastes fuel and is not good for the engine.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY SAYS: "Avoid idling more than 30 seconds (when not in traffic)—Frequent restarting has little impact on the battery and starter (~\$10 a year worth of wear), whereas excessive idling can actually damage important engine components."

Idling for just 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.



- 1) Turn your engine off to load and unload passengers and their luggage.
- 2) On the coldest mornings, only 30-60 seconds are needed to warm up the engine.
- 3) Turn off your engine while waiting to get passengers outside of hotels and sporting events.



In city driving, acceleration accounts for 50% of fuel use. Maintain an even speed and avoid using excessive gas to accelerate fast. Smooth driving can improve your fuel efficiency by up to 33%.

#### **EXAMPLES:**

- 1) Don't follow other cars too closely so you can avoid unnecessary breaking and accelerating.
- 2) Accelerate smoothly—stepping hard on the gas uses a lot of fuel.
- 3) Take your foot off the gas early so you can coast down hills to red lights and stop signs.

## 3) DON'T SPEED!

55-60 MPH is the most efficient speed.

#### **EXAMPLES:**

- 1) Every 5 MPH over 60 MPH reduces fuel efficiency by about 7%. That is like paying \$0.30 more per gallon! **Driving 70 MPH instead of 60 MPH costs the same as paying \$4.50 per gallon instead of \$3.90.**
- 2) Go the speed limit on the highway.
- 3) Use cruise control when you can.



We know you take pride in what you are doing. Help others join you by sharing these tips with fellow drivers.

Information sources include: Ford Motor Company, US EPA, Edmunds, and Consumer Reports





Here is an example of two drivers, "Aggressive Al" & "Efficient Earl." Both drive Crown Victorias 50,000 miles per year, but their driving styles are very different.



## **Aggressive Al always:**

- Leaves his engine running when unloading passengers and collecting the fare, or during other "short" stops.
- Drives as fast as he can on the highway.
- Drives as fast as he can up to lights and stop signs, and then floors the gas pedal when the light turns green.

Al gets an average of 18 MPG and spends \$10,800 a year on gas.

## On the other hand, Efficient Earl:

- Turns his engine off whenever he stops when not in traffic—even if the stop is only for 60 seconds or so.
- Goes the speed limit on the highway, uses cruise control to maintain an even speed, and keeps some distance between other cars so he doesn't need to keep slowing down and speeding up all the time.
- Takes his foot off the gas a bit early when there is traffic or a light
  up ahead and tries to time it so he doesn't have to come to a stop and then smoothly
  accelerates back up to cruising speed.



## Earl's good driving will save \$2,300 compared to Al!

Al might get places a little bit faster sometimes, but think of how many more hours he has to work to pay for the gas he wastes. Passengers probably appreciate the smoother ride in Earl's cab and that he cares about the environment—so Earl probably gets better tips, too.

Revised January 2012



