

# Expensive gas? It's the new reality

There was a time when gasoline was taken for granted. The first gas crisis that hit the world in the seventies gave motorists a good scare. But the automobile world got back on its feet and motorists regained confidence, taking small price fluctuations in stride. But today the price of oil is skyrocketing, and the price of gasoline, its most important derivative, is soaring. How can motorists compromise in this situation?

Will prices ever drop? Prices may vary but they will never go back to what they were in past years and motorists will have to adapt to this new reality. Of course, smaller engines and hybrid vehicles will increase in popularity. However, many cars currently on the roads will still be around in the next few years and their owners will not only have to cope with gasoline prices, they will have to learn to adapt accordingly.

Summer holidays are fast approaching and many people are planning their holiday destinations in terms of the distance to be traveled. Chances are they will exceed their gasoline budget.

### Reducing your gas consumption

Car owners who cared little about the maintenance of their vehicles in the past had better change their ways in the future. Until just recently, wasting fuel was nearly a national sport. According to Natural Resources Canada, Canadian motorists will probably burn an extra 643 million litres of fuel this year, only because one or more of their tires are under-inflated. So the first step toward better fuel economy will be to better monitor the pressure of our tires which has to be checked often and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendation (check your owner's manual).

A new approach to driving



About 643 million litres of fuel will be wasted this year, due only to under-inflated tires.

Drivers will have to adopt a new approach to driving. Repeat acceleration, and the non-respect of speed limits greatly contribute to high gas consumption.

As well, vehicles will have to be loaded more lightly. Furthermore, drivers will have to keep better track of prevailing gas prices. For instance, we all know that gas prices are increased one or two days prior to a long weekend or just before a legal holiday. Why not plan accordingly and fill-up a few days earlier when prices are lower?

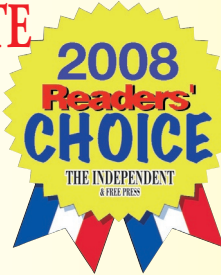
### In brief

Proper preparation or a tune-up of the vehicle will also help. However, better monitoring of the tire pressure, lighter loads and better driving habits still won't decrease the price of gas! But all of these factors will make for better fuel economy, which will translate in a smaller gas bill. This is the new reality!

—Article by Eric Descarries, Toolbox



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