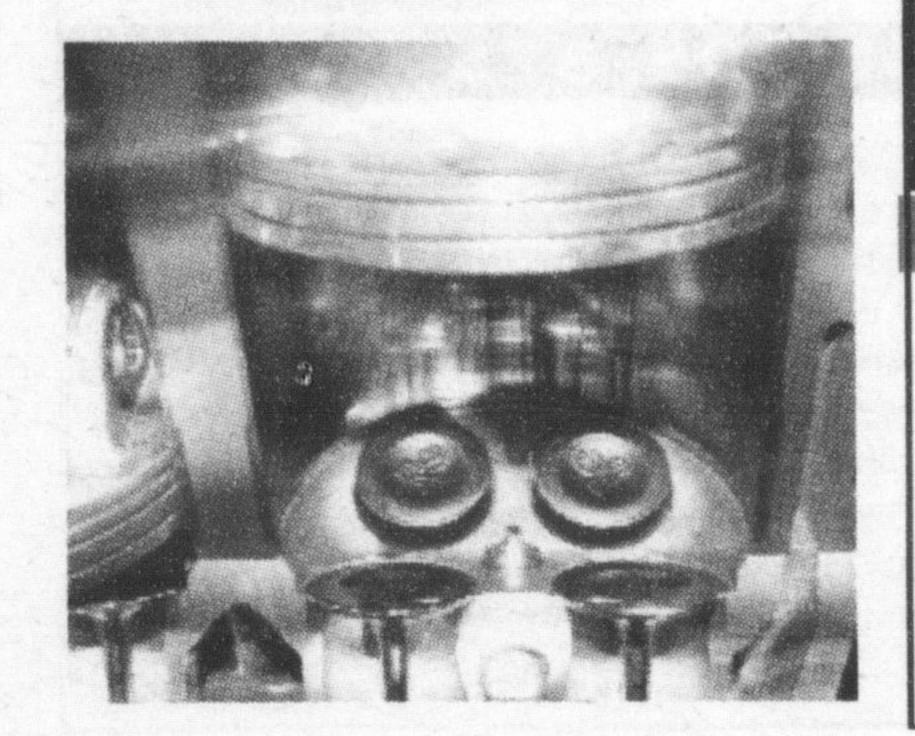
How does engine size relate to fuel efficiency?

(NC)-Did you know that advancements in engine technology over the past 20 years mean you don't have to sacrifice power for fuel economy? In fact, you might say "small is the new big" when it comes to the relationship between engine size and fuel consumption.

Here is how the whole thing works ... the size of an engine can affect its peak power output and fuel consumption. Engine size is measured by the total volume displaced by the pistons in the cylinders as they move from their furthest point up to their furthest point down. As a result, engine size is also referred to as "displacement" and is measured in litres or cubic inches. In general, the larger the engine and the more cylinders it has (smaller engines usually have four cylinders, larger engines have six or eight — or more), the greater its fuel consumption. Smaller engines tend to operate closer to their optimal efficiency levels under typical driving conditions, meaning more of the energy from the fuel is converted into work at the crankshaft, whereas in larger engines more of the available energy in the fuel consumed (under similar driving conditions) is lost to heat and friction.

So what does this all mean to you the driver and you the vehicle buyer? You don't have to buy the biggest, most powerful vehicle on the lot to get the performance you desire. Natural Resources Canada has everything you need to know about fuel efficiency and vehicles at www.vehicles.nrcan.gc.ca.

www.newscanada.com



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