



## **Quick tips to save big money: auto**

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Use these simple tips to save big money on your car expenses.  
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When gas prices go down, they don't stay down for long, and when they go up, they seem to go way up. You can't do much to control gas prices, but you can save money on gas - as well as other auto expenses - all year long. Here's how you can get organized and realize big savings:

- **Keep your service appointments.** By fixing the small repairs - low transmission fluid, dirty air filter, broken thermostat - you save money in the long run on big repairs, increase fuel efficiency, and keep your car longer. You'll increase fuel economy alone by an average of 10%, saving you about \$16 a month.
- **Remove extra weight and drag.** Cleaning out your trunk (tools, sports equipment, junk you've left and forgotten) increases fuel efficiency, and removing items attached to your vehicle that cause drag - roof racks, cargo carriers - can increase your overall miles per gallon by up to 2%. (See the Get Organized article for [steps to clean out your car.](#)) Your savings? About \$3 a month.
- **Change your driving habits.** To maximize fuel efficiency, accelerate slowly, brake gently, and don't weave in and out of lanes on the highway. For biggest savings, keep your speed down on highways; for every mile per hour over 55, your fuel economy drops by 2%. By changing your driving habits, you can save over \$37 a month.
- **Use an independent repair shop.** Once your car is no longer under warranty, you'll save by getting your service from an independent service center; labor rates are lower there than at your dealer, saving you an average of about \$20 a month. Visit [Yelp](#) to find a recommended repair shop.
- **Resist the temptation to trade.** If your car is paid for and you're keeping it in good repair, it's costing you a lot less than a new car payment. You can continue to save big money by keeping your car until the monthly costs of repairs and other upkeep exceed the cost of a new car payment. By keeping your existing vehicle, dings and all, you're saving an average of over \$200 a month!

Find additional tips to save money on your vehicle expenses, visit [Car Talk](#). Share here your auto money saving tips, and click on "subscribe" to be notified of future Get Organized articles.

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