

FUEL-SAVING TIPS

DISCOVERY INSURE



Record-high fuel prices in South Africa

Orlik (2022) states that South Africa has faced one of its toughest economic slumps, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdown restrictions had a massive impact on the economy of the country. Many consumers are still facing the financial impact and struggling to keep head above water.

South Africa has also seen fuel prices hit a record-high in the first six months of 2022. Fuel prices are mainly affected by two components (BusinessTech, 2022):

1. The rand/dollar exchange rate
2. Changes to the costs of international petroleum products, primarily driven by oil prices

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has a massive impact on the fuel price increase as well.

According to André Thomashausen, an emeritus professor of international law at Unisa, fuel prices could continue to rise to over R40 per litre, in the worst-case scenario (Prior, 2022).

On top of this, consumers also must pay more for public transport, food and other services, all affected by the increase in fuel price. Consumers are facing even more pressure to survive in trying times.



10 tips to help your tank last longer

There must surely be ways to save fuel during these tough economic times with fuel prices continuing to rise. Saving fuel is something we can all benefit from. After all, who would not want their tank of fuel to last longer?

1. Be tech-savvy

Many new vehicles have economy settings to optimise performance and throttle response to deliver the best possible fuel economy. Use them to your advantage (Sunday Times, 2021).

2. Switch it off

If you are waiting at a drive-through queue or to pick someone up and it takes more than 10 seconds, switch off your engine. Idling gets you nowhere, but still burns fuel (Shell, n.d.).

3. Breathe in and count to 10

Accelerating and braking gradually (not harshly) improve fuel consumption. Aggressive driving can increase fuel consumption up to 33% (University Fleet Management, n.d.).

4. Cruise, take it easy

Using cruise control on your vehicle helps improve fuel economy and prevents speeding (University Fleet Management, n.d.). Varying your speed every 18 seconds can increase your fuel consumption by 20% (Government of Canada, 2021).

5. Plan ahead

When travelling, map out your route, especially for long-distance travel. Listen to traffic reports while driving and avoid routes where there are accidents or road construction. Use highways and the best possible route for your journey as this helps to save fuel (Government of Canada, 2021).

6. Pressure is good

Driving a vehicle with under-inflated tyres can increase fuel consumption by up to 4%. It can also reduce the life of your tyres by more than 10,000 kilometres. Keep your tyres inflated to the correct pressure (Government of Canada, 2021).

7. Natural heating and cooling

Don't use your air conditioning unless you really must, as it uses engine power and, therefore, increases fuel consumption. This goes for heating as well as cooling. So, try to dress for the weather, even inside your car (RAC, 2022).

8. Lighten the load

Don't keep unnecessary items in your boot or in your car as they all add weight to your vehicle. Extra weight will increase your fuel consumption in the long run (RAC, 2022).

9. Choose the right gear

Drive at the lowest speed in the highest gear that the road and traffic conditions allow without labouring the engine. Low gears and high speed use more fuel (Sunday Times, 2021).

10. Tender love and care

It is important to make sure that your car is serviced regularly. A well-tuned engine will save a surprising amount of fuel. Simple maintenance and routine servicing will make sure your vehicle performs at its best (Shell, n.d.).



Vitality Drive helps clients save on fuel

Good driver behaviour reduces fuel consumption

Discovery Insure aims to create a nation of better drivers by means of the Vitality Drive programme. Vitality Drive is Discovery Insure's unique driver behaviour programme that rewards clients for driving well. Vitality Drive uses the latest telematics technology for motor vehicles to collect information about your clients' driving behaviour, such as acceleration, braking, cornering, speed, night-time driving, distance driven and cellphone use.

Many of these behaviours have a direct impact on fuel consumption. When clients monitor their driving behaviour, such as acceleration and speeding, they will lower their fuel consumption, as aggressive driving behaviour increases fuel consumption. Discovery Insure creates the right incentives and gives clients tools to help improve their driving behaviour.

Fuel cash back to help clients fight the record-high fuel prices

Discovery Insure rewards clients based on a positive change in their driving behaviour, placing the opportunity to receive a reward entirely in the hands of the client. Vitality Drive clients can earn up to 50% (R800) cash back on fuel each month for driving well.

Vitality Drive offers clients the highest cash back on fuel spend. Unlike other providers, our fuel cash back is linked to fuel spend (which is affected by the fuel price) rather than the number of litres bought. So, as the fuel price goes up, our clients get more rewards.

After all, who would say no to up to R800 back in their pocket during these tough times?

Other rewards with Vitality Drive that help improve fuel consumption

New and maintained tyres deliver better fuel consumption

Tiger Wheel & Tyre is a network of tyre fitment centres across Southern Africa, specialising in performance wheels and the world's best brands of tyres at affordable prices. All Vitality Drive clients get up to 20% discount (depending on their Vitality Drive status) on their tyre purchases at Tiger Wheel & Tyre.

Regular vehicle services and maintenance improve fuel economy

We have partnered with Bosch to give our Vitality Drive clients discounts on their maintenance and service costs. Clients can get up to 20% off when they take their vehicle to Bosch for servicing and maintenance, based on their Vitality Drive status at the time of servicing.

Vitality Active Rewards motivate clients to achieve their personalised goals and save on fuel

Clients can get rewarded for meeting their personalised weekly Vitality Active Rewards drive goal. They can join Vitality Active Rewards to earn Discovery Miles to spend on exciting rewards of their choice for achieving their weekly drive goal. All clients need to do is drive well to reach their personalised, weekly drive goal and close their drive ring.

Use Uber to save fuel on short trips

Uber is a convenient, inexpensive and safe ride-on-demand service that uses a smartphone application to connect a user to a private driver who will pick them up from their location and drive them to their destination. Clients get up to 25% off the standard fee, putting more money back in their pocket.



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