

# 20 tips to save money on gas

1. Newer Models of Vans Are Much More Fuel-Efficient Than Old Vans
2. You Will Get Better Miles Per Gallon from a Diesel Van Than Petrol:
  - However, diesel fuel often comes at a higher cost.
  - The choice between diesel and petrol depends on your location and calculations.
    - For instance, in areas where diesel and petrol prices are similar, a diesel van might be more cost-effective.
  - Another important consideration is the lifespan of diesel vs. petrol vans, as diesel vans tend to last significantly longer, sometimes twice as long.
3. The West Coast of the USA Typically Has Gas Prices \$2-4 Higher Per Gallon Than the South and Midwest:
  - Staying away from the West Coast can save you on gas costs.
4. Gas Is Typically Cheaper During the Winter:
  - If you plan to drive long distances, it's best to do so during the winter season.
5. Van Maintenance:
  1. Keep Tires Inflated (Hugely Important) - Under-inflated tires can increase fuel consumption by around 3%.
  2. Check Oil and Coolant Levels (Engine efficiency depends on it).
  3. Keep Your Van Serviced Regularly.
6. Lighten Your Load:
  1. Reclaimed wood can be heavy; consider plywood, which is lighter.
  2. Reduce clutter inside your van.
7. Reduce Drag:
  1. Remove roof racks when not in use.
  2. Keep windows closed while driving.
8. Avoid Using Air Conditioning as It Increases Fuel Consumption by 8-10%.
9. Slow Your Speed:
  - Driving at 60 mph on the motorway can be more economical than traveling at 70 mph.
10. Carefully Plan Your Journey to Avoid Unnecessary Detours.
11. Beware of Harsh Braking and Acceleration:
  - These can significantly increase fuel consumption.
12. Don't Fill Up to the Full Tank:
  - A full tank of fuel can add unnecessary weight; consider filling up halfway to save on fuel consumption.
13. Turn Off the Engine in Traffic:
  - If you're stuck in traffic or waiting at traffic lights, switch off the engine to save fuel, especially if your van has a stop/start system.
14. Use Cruise Control on Highways:
  - Cruise control helps maintain a constant speed, reducing fuel consumption by avoiding unnecessary acceleration.
15. Travel During Off-Peak Hours:
  - Plan your travel during off-peak hours to avoid heavy traffic, ensuring smoother driving conditions and potential fuel savings.
16. Combine Trips and Plan Efficient Routes:
  - Minimize backtracking and unnecessary detours, and combine multiple errands into one trip for fuel savings.

17. Utilize Campground Amenities:

- Stay at campgrounds with electricity and water hookups to reduce the need for running your RV's generator and save on fuel.

18. Use Solar Power:

- Utilize solar power rather than relying solely on split charging, effectively reducing the need to use your van as a generator.

19. Use Higher Gears:

- Drive in the highest gear possible without straining the engine for better fuel efficiency.

20. Plan Fuel Stops Strategically:

- Research and plan your fuel stops in advance, taking advantage of apps like Waze and GasBuddy to find the most cost-effective options.

**Apps and Resources:**

- Waze and Google Maps now allow you to select fuel-efficient routes.
- GasBuddy: Find the cheapest gas prices in your area and get real-time updates.
- Fuelio: Track fuel costs, vehicle efficiency, and driving habits.
- [Fueleconomy.gov](https://www.fueleconomy.gov): Compare fuel efficiency ratings for different vehicles and get tips for improving fuel economy when choosing a vehicle.