

Engine maintenance and saving fuel

Maintenance

A vehicle's fuel efficiency and emissions performance will deteriorate over time, unless it is properly maintained. Tyres, particularly, can notably affect vehicle fuel economy, as well as handling and safety.

Regular servicing and appropriate vehicle maintenance can improve engine efficiency and reduce your vehicle's performance, fuel use and emissions.

There are four main maintenance strategies to adopt to keep your vehicle in good working order:

- [Keep to the recommended servicing schedule](#);
- [Choose low rolling resistance tyres](#) at time of replacement;
- [Maintain your tyres properly](#); and
- Undertake [simple vehicle maintenance checks](#) regularly.

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Scheduled Servicing

Frequency of inspections and major servicing will depend on the age and condition of your vehicle as well as the type and amount of driving you do. Looking after your engine with scheduled servicing will maximise its fuel efficiency.

Modern vehicles don't need to have a "tune up" in the same way older vehicles with carburetors did. Inspections usually involve the vehicle being connected to diagnostic equipment to identify any faults.

Services often include changing the oil filter and oil. Using the correct grade of engine oil and choosing a low friction lubricant can reduce fuel consumption. Cleanliness of the air filters and appropriate fluid levels (e.g. coolant, transmission fluid, etc.) may also affect fuel efficiency.



Consult your vehicle owner's manual for the manufacturer's recommended schedule of inspections, replacement and all other maintenance. Some owner's manuals can be found online.

Tyre Choice

About 5% – 15% of the fuel consumed by a typical car may be used to overcome tyre rolling resistance. For heavy vehicles this portion can be as high as 15% – 30%.

Rolling resistance depends on the tyre design and its level of inflation. There are an increasing number of low rolling resistance tyres available on the market, which can save considerable fuel.

When it is time to replace your tyres, select low rolling resistance tyres for fuel savings.

See our [Tyre Comparison tool](#) for more information on how much fuel a low rolling resistance tyre could save you, or [click here for information on reading tyre codes](#).

Tyre Maintenance

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Underinflated tyres lead to increased rolling resistance and wear. Over-inflation may cause excessive wear in the middle of tyres. Carrying heavy weights increases flexing of the tyres. It is important to reinflate tyres for heavy loads.

You'll save fuel, money and emissions with appropriate tyre maintenance:

- Check your tyre pressure at least once a month, and before a long drive.
- Learn your vehicle's recommended tyre pressure. This may vary from vehicle to vehicle. The information is generally found in the driver's manual, with stickers on the vehicle.
- Check for proper inflation when the tyre is cool (i.e. after the vehicle has been stationary for a few hours, or has driven only a kilometre or two).
- Remember to check the spare tyre regularly, too.
- Don't just look at a tyre or kick it in an attempt to assess it. This will not give a good indication! Radial tyres can be under-inflated yet still look normal.
- Consider using tyre pressure indicators. These can be high-tech electronic monitors with remote displays down to simple colour-coded tyre valve attachments.
- Every 15 000 km ensure wheels are aligned to reduce rolling resistance.



Simple Maintenance Checks

Between [scheduled services](#), you can keep your vehicle operating efficiently by regularly checking:

- The level of engine oil;
- The level of radiator coolant;
- The level of automatic transmission and power steering fluids;
- Air filters and replace them when dirty; and, if needed,
- Fluid levels of unsealed batteries.

Consult your owner's manual for instructions specific to your vehicle.