



Eco-driving safely for taxis

Protect the environment and save money

IRU has developed this advice on safe eco-driving to help drivers adjust their driving behaviour to different situations. Eco-driving can reduce fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and accident rates.

Before the journey



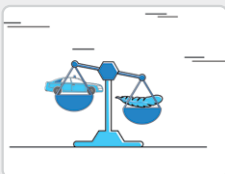
Maintain your vehicle

Maintain engine oil levels and clean air filters to keep vehicles running efficiently. Use the fuel recommended by the manufacturer to keep the vehicle engine performing efficiently. Always consult the vehicle owner's manual for maintenance guidance.



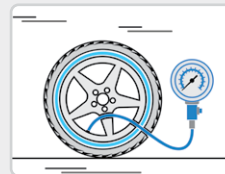
Use on-board devices

Use an up-to-date navigation system to bypass congested routes and avoid idling. An on-board computer may help to save time by selecting the most efficient routes. Use devices such as an on-board computer to monitor fuel consumption.



Travel light

Unload as much as possible as soon as possible. Remove unnecessary weight from the vehicle.



Check your tyres

Keeping tyres inflated to at least the pressure recommended by the manufacturer can reduce fuel consumption by up to 4% (10-15% over-inflation saves fuel, but increases braking distances). Under-inflated tyres wear more rapidly and increase fuel consumption owing to greater rolling resistance.

Maximum cold tyre pressures can be found in the vehicle owner's manual or on the tyre pressure label.

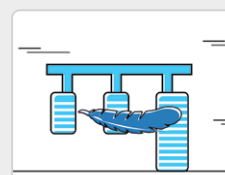
Axles should be correctly aligned according to the vehicle owner's manual.

During the journey



Drive at a steady speed

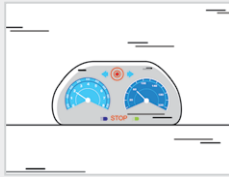
Try to maintain a steady speed by using the highest gear possible and avoiding unnecessary acceleration and braking. The engine power required to maintain a steady speed is lower if you do not continuously brake and accelerate. Anticipate the traffic flow by looking ahead as far as possible. Use cruise control on motorways. Reduce speed in strong headwinds, heavy rain, snowfall and icy conditions.



Accelerate and brake smoothly

Avoid fast starts and hard braking as they waste fuel and wear out some vehicle components more quickly, such as brakes and tyres. Maintain a safe distance between vehicles and anticipate traffic conditions to allow more time to brake and accelerate gradually.

During the journey



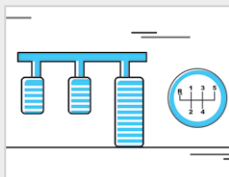
Check engine lights

Modern vehicles have sophisticated on-board diagnostics (OBD) systems that continually monitor the operation of your vehicle. If the OBD alert light comes on, there is the possibility that your emissions are increased and your fuel economy is going down. Replacing a faulty sensor could result in a fuel economy improvement of as much as 40%. If the OBD light comes on, consult a maintenance expert.



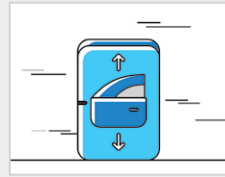
Brake smoothly

Every time you use the brakes, you waste energy. Use engine braking to reduce speed when approaching a traffic light. Apply the brakes to bring the vehicle to a standstill when you are close to the traffic lights. This will reduce wear on the brakes, lower exhaust emissions, cut off fuel supply and make the ride comfortable for your passengers.



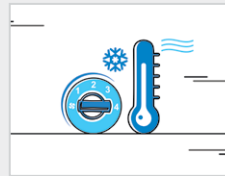
Drive off from standstill – but always try to avoid stopping

When the traffic lights turn green, accelerate quickly, but try not to press down the acceleration pedal more than halfway. Shift up the gears as soon as possible. In a modern vehicle, use the minimum number of gear changes from standstill to cruising speed.



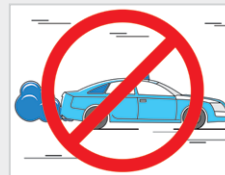
Close windows at high speeds

Do not drive faster than 30km/h with. Driving with the windows open at high speeds increases aerodynamic drag on the vehicle and increases fuel consumption. Remove anything that makes the vehicle less streamlined.



Minimise use of heating and air conditioning

Use heating and air conditioning selectively to reduce the load on the engine. Decreasing use of the air conditioner can reduce fuel consumption by 10-15%. Park your vehicle in the shade.



No idling

Modern engines generally do not need a warm up. Start the vehicle and gently drive away immediately. Prolonged idling increases emissions and wastes fuel. Turn the engine off, when idling for more than 30 seconds. If possible, keep out of congested areas and find an alternative motorway solution (with the agreement of the customer) rather than driving through the city centre. This might take a few minutes longer, but will reduce fuel consumption, and wear on the brake linings, clutch plates and gearbox, all while minimising driver fatigue and reducing the risk of accidents. Try to avoid unnecessary overtaking on highways. It does not usually speed up your trip, but leads to greater fuel consumption and congestion.

This checklist is provided to you by the **IRU Academy**, the training arm of the **International Road Transport Union (IRU)**.

See our training programmes on www.iru.org/academy