

AutoShack Weekly Tip



- How many times have you heard that using your air conditioning results in increased fuel usage?
- If you have ever wondered if this is true or how it happens, you're not alone.
- Questions regarding the use of A/C and its impact on fuel consumption ranks among top customer concerns.
- In today's tip, we discuss how A/C use affects fuel mileage.

• **What do I need to know about AC and fuel efficiency ?**

- It's common knowledge that using your A/C leads to a decrease in fuel efficiency. However, this isn't always the case. Let's discuss why.
- To begin, keep in mind that as you drive, the vehicle must overcome resistance to wind.
- The faster you drive the higher the wind resistance to overcome.
- This means more fuel must be burnt to overcome the wind resistance.
- **When driving on the highway** with the windows up , the air moves over the vehicle more easily, reducing the amount of resistance the vehicle must work against.
- It is more economical to turn your A/C on in this case. your A/C won't use as much fuel as is needed to overcome air resistance.
- If you were to roll down your windows, more work would be needed to overcome the wind resistance than the A/C would use. This usually happens at a speed of 45 mph (70 km/hr).

- **What do I need to know about AC and fuel efficiency**

- **?...continued**

- **When driving in the city**, the wind resistance is low because vehicle speed is low. Therefore, when driving in the city it's more economical to lower your windows and turn off the A/C.
- The A/C would use more fuel than is needed to overcome the low resistance wind.
- Driving with the A/C off and windows down is the most fuel efficient way to operate your automobile in this case. This is recommended below 45mph (70 km/hr).

- **In summary;**

- When driving on the highway, roll your windows up and turn on your A/C to save fuel.
- When driving in the city, roll your windows down and turn off the A/C to save fuel.

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