

How to Improve Air Quality

Simple Steps to Improve Air Quality

Don't top off your gas tank. Ever wonder why the nozzle trigger doesn't catch when you first start pumping gasoline? Reason: the prior user topped off their gas tank, causing gasoline to get sucked into the pump's vapor recovery system and temporarily clogging the line. When you use that pump next, the trigger clicks several times to clear the vapor recovery line. So those extra couple cents you thought you squeezed into your tank most likely were sucked back into the station. When the nozzle clicks off, stop so you can save money and save the air.

Tighten your gas cap. If you would like to save up to 30 gallons of gasoline a year, make sure you tighten down your gas cap until it clicks 4-5 times to ensure a proper seal (85% of the caps have this clicking mechanism).



Get fuel later in the day. Refueling during the evening can prevent gas fumes from baking in the sun and creating ozone. That helps keep the air clean.

Care for your car. Regular maintenance and tune-ups, changing the oil and checking tire inflation can improve gas mileage, extend your car's life and increase its resale value. It could reduce your car's emissions by more than half!

Combine your errands into one trip. Vehicles don't reach their maximum operating efficiency until they have been driven for at least 2 miles. When you first start a car after it has been sitting for more than an hour; it pollutes up to five times more than when the engine is warm!

It all adds up to cleaner air

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Take mass transit, share a ride or carpool. Even if you do it just once or twice a week, you'll reduce traffic congestion and pollution, and save money. It costs roughly between 44 cents and 62 cents per mile (depending on car size and type) to own and operate a vehicle.

Have fun! Ride your bike or walk instead of driving. It's a great way to travel and it can help you and the air get in shape. Vehicles on the road create more than 25% of all air pollution nationwide.



Consider everything before you buy. If you move, choose a location to live that reduces the need to drive. Pick a place closer to where you work, businesses you routinely frequent, near a bus line or where you can join a carpool/vanpool.

Don't let your vehicle idle for more than a minute. Idling can consume as much as a gallon of gas per hour and wastes more fuel than restarting the engine.



Avoid Congestion and listen to traffic report. Avoid roads where congested conditions with their slow speeds and stop-and-go movement increase air pollution and expose drivers to higher ozone and carbon monoxide levels. Start work early and leave early (or late) to avoid congestion. Use the most fuel-efficient vehicle you have in your household. Better yet, telecommute!
