

OTR Driver Fuel Conservation Tips

- Slow down – set speed warning indicators at 65 mph or lower
- Deploy use of engine governors or other devices to control max speed
- When possible use cruise control for open highway and flat terrain
- Plan route using shortest miles and flat terrain / avoid mountainous routes when practical
- Plan routes through major cities during off-peak hours
- Reduce deadhead and empty miles by laying over, if practical
- Consolidate stops on light customer shipments when approved
- Utilize low RPM shifting techniques for maximum fuel conservation
- Only use inertia coasting practices when safe, legal and on flat terrain
- Avoid use of Engine Compression Brake to reduce fuel consumption
- Ensure all equipment is properly maintained and all air/fuel filters are changed according to manufacturer's specs
- Employ aerodynamic equipment strategies (i.e. – tarps, fairings, etc.)
- Eliminate unnecessary equipment/tools/personal effects to reduce total weight on truck
- Ensure proper tire pressure, balance and alignment are to spec for enhanced spec for optimum mileage
- Continuously monitor tire pressure for lowest rolling resistance
- Utilize Super Single (low rolling resistance) tires, when practical
- Replace oil and lubricants at accelerated intervals or per manufacturer's specs
- Replace current engine oil with low kinematic viscosity (low weight) oil to the low level mark
- Owner / operators should select a "Buyer's Club" or Co-op for fuel, oil and parts

Carrier Fuel Conservation Tips

- Become an [EPA SmartWay Transport Partner](#) certified carrier and apply all practical SmartWay specs for over the road equipment
- Install idle optimization systems to monitor driver idle time
- Purchase low resistance tires where practical
- Install speed reducing governors on engines and set for 65 mph or less
- Equip trucks with in-cab heaters or engine pre heaters for winter truck heating requirements
- Investigate appropriate APUs for your fleet to cool trucks and reduce engine idle time for auxiliary devices
- Purchase and install fuel optimization software and programs for fuel purchasing cost controls
- Deploy route optimization software to select routes with fewest impediments such as traffic flows or adverse terrains
- Investigate continuous tire pressure monitoring systems and auto inflation equipment
- Constantly maintain optimum low resistance air pressure in all tires
- Install equipment to enhance fleet aerodynamic capabilities
- Plan routes in advance and consolidate loads with multiple stops where allowed
- Reduce deadhead and empty miles by laying over drivers, if practical
- Deploy a full equipment maintenance program to optimize engine efficiency
- Mandate use of cruise control and speed warning devices when governors are not present to keep drivers speed below 65 mph.
- Examine driver incentives and training for fuel efficiency and idle reduction procedures
- Use low kinematic viscosity oil
- When practical move OTR to Intermodal or rail, as permitted by customer
- Purchase the [ATA's Fleet Managers Guide to Fuel Economy](#) to drive optimum testing for fuel savings and conservation practices
- Lock down fuel caps
- Install security cameras where possible to protect assets from theft
- Leave fuel tanks empty when trucks are not being utilized