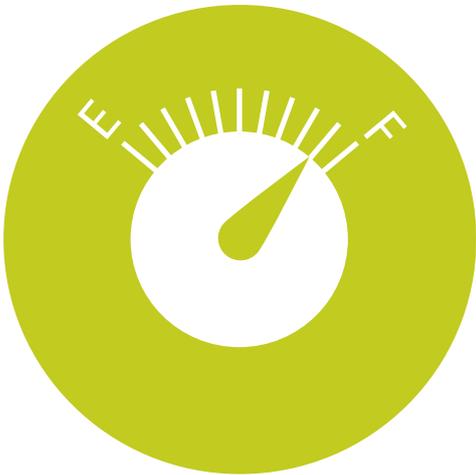


Go further^o



Fuel saving tips

Go further



Unlike domestic drivers, driving less isn't really an option. Saving fuel makes sense for everyone, so having the right advice to hand could be priceless. Even a small saving is going to be very visible on the bottom-line.

Know the costs

Many professional operators and drivers don't have an accurate understanding of how much they spend on fuel. Do the sums to work out what your truck(s) costs to run. Then you'll be ready to start saving fuel and money.

Path of least resistance

The resistance to a truck's forward motion comes from rolling resistance, air resistance and gradient. Of course you can and should choose less hilly routes wherever possible, however there is much more you can do reduce rolling resistance and air resistance.

- A complete set of the latest low-rolling-resistance tyres can give fuel economy gains of up to 6% on long-haul work.
- Check all tyre pressures regularly (including trailers). If pressure falls below recommended figures, rolling resistance increases and fuel is wasted. A 10 psi fall in tyre pressure is likely to result in a 1% fall in fuel economy

Putting on the (Aerodynamic) style

You don't need to an expert aerodynamicist to improve the efficiency of your truck and enjoy real fuel savings:

- Just three items (roof air deflector, rear cab side collars and under-bumper air dam) can deliver 80% of the fuel saving benefits
- Nearly half of the potential savings comes from the roof air deflector
- Even when empty, sheeting a tipper body can produce significant savings
- Fuel economy can vary 10% across the seasons – wet roads and high winds take their toll

The idle rich

A typical 420hp heavy-duty truck engine consumes fuel at the rate of around two litres an hour with the truck stationary and the engine idling.

Driving down fuel costs

You really are in the driving seat when it comes to fuel economy. Drivers are not only able to deliver lower fuel bills but a fuel efficient driving style could mean lower maintenance and insurance costs.

Increasingly fleet operators assess fuel efficiency as part of their driver recruitment process. Providing in service training and making it central to a driver's continuous development programme, often backed by bonus schemes that reward fuel efficiency.

Use this checklist* to make sure you're doing all you can:

- No matter how experienced you are, always be ready to learn
- Know your average MPG
- Follow the manufacturer recommendations
- Read the vehicle handbook
- Use tachometer green zone
- Skip-shift (block-shift) gears where it safe to do so
- Always do systematic pre-driving and daily checks
- Report defects promptly
- Take care filling fuel tanks and avoid filling to the brim
- Park up in a way to avoid early-morning manoeuvring with cold engine – this wastes fuel
- Pull away in the right gear
- Use cruise control
- Use the engine's 'sweet spot' (the speed at which fuel economy is at its best)
- When refueling, never leave a fuel nozzle unattended

* Checklist courtesy of the Department of Transport.



In 2012, DWF was accredited as a top tier legal firm for Transport by Chambers and Legal 500