



3328 MT DIABLO BLVD, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549 ■ TEL: 925 283 5212 ■ HRS: MON-FRI 7:30 AM-5 PM

Shop Talk from Urban Suburban

This week: Saving Gas- Right from the mechanic's mouth!

By Krysten A. Laine, Urban Suburban

This week we woke up to a national average of \$4.00 per gallon. Where does it end? How do I save money? The media has inundated us with tips on saving dollars and cents at the pump and getting the most miles out of your gas tank. This week, we decided to give a spin right from the mechanic's mouth- the person that works to keep your car on the road.

Filter service- You had your oil changed which included replacing the oil filter. How about the fuel filter? Or air filter? The air and fuel filter work together to ensure the right fuel mix is running through your car. Next time you are in for an oil change, take a look at your other filters.

Check engine light- The check engine light is an indicator that something in your system is failing. Newer cars have sensors to monitor mass air flow, coolant temperature, knock sensors, O2 sensors, crank and/or cam sensors, and may more. Each of these sensors contributes to how efficient your car is running. If any one of these sensors fails, it will impact your gas mileage. Next time you are in for service, request a diagnostics check.

Tires & steering- Keep your tires at the recommended factory pressure. Lower air pressure in your tires increases drag on your car and needs more energy to maintain speed. Look at your tires from time to time, how does the tread look? Regularly checking you air pressure, rotating tires with every service, and keeping up with tire replacement will all help to improve gas mileage. Worn out parts of the steering and suspension will increase wear on your tires, the drag on your car, and cause unnecessary movement in parts which will add to your gas mileage woes. Routine inspections and alignments will improve gas mileage. Some automotive shops include suspension and chassis inspections when you get a minor or major service.

Driveline- A noisy driveline means the parts are worn out or not lubed and running smoothly. This will increase the drag on your car and impact the gas mileage. Maintain the driveline shaft and u-joints by checking and lubricating the parts. Some auto manufacturers say synthetic lubricants are better for the drive train and u-joints over the long term. Consult your manufacturer manual for recommendations.

Filling up at the pump- Where ever you choose to fill up, fill your tank to full and fill it in the morning. Filling in the morning means gas is denser than the hotter times of the day. You will get more gas for your dollar during the cooler morning hours.

If you have any questions about this or any other Shop Talk issues, call US today at 925-283-5212. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Urban Suburban is your auto repair specialist for Audi, Mercedes, BMW, Lexus, Saturn, Ford, Honda, Toyota, Dodge, Chevy, Porsche, Jaguar, Acura, Volvo, Saab, Nissan and more. NOT just SUVs anymore! We provide free shuttle service to the local area.