

Fuel Efficiency

Practical skills

What actually affects consumption, ranked by effect.

Roughly ordered by size of effect.

Factor	Effect
Speed above ~60 mph	Large — drag rises with the square of speed
Harsh acceleration and braking	Large
Underinflated tyres	Up to 3%
Roof box or bars	Up to 20% at speed
Air conditioning	5–10% at low speed
Excess weight	~1% per 25 kg
Short cold journeys	Large — worst efficiency
Fuel additives	Negligible

Remove roof bars when not in use. The drag penalty at motorway speed is larger than almost anything else on this list.