

**Wheels:** Riley asks if there is anything that can be done to increase the fuel economy of his 1990 fuel-injected 6-cylinder van? Are there any adjustments that can help?

**Halderman:** The increasing cost of gasoline makes everyone more concerned about fuel economy. Unfortunately, there are no “adjustments” that can be made to improve the fuel economy. Fuel-injected engines use engine sensors and a computer to deliver exactly the correct amount of fuel for the most efficient engine operation with the lowest possible exhaust emissions. The law of physics cannot be repealed. It requires a certain amount of energy to get a vehicle moving and to propel it at highway speeds.

**Wheels:** Is there anything Riley can do to reduce his gasoline expense?

**Halderman:** Yes. There are several things that can be done including:

- Make sure the ignition system is in the proper state of tune. This includes spark plugs, distributor cap, rotor, and spark plug wires. Any fault in these components could result in a loss of fuel economy.
- Be sure that the tires are properly inflated. Check the placard on the driver’s doorpost or the owner’s manual for the specified inflation pressures.
- While driving, try to avoid using the defroster or air-conditioning whenever possible. The air-conditioning compressor operates and takes power from the engine when the air conditioning or defroster positions are selected.

**Note:** If your vehicle is equipped with automatic temperature control, select manual mode to prevent the air conditioning compressor from operating all the time. Sometimes this manual position is called “economy.”

