



## Why Is My MPG Different From the EPA Estimate?

A vehicle's MPG is not a fixed number like its wheelbase, length, or passenger volume. Differences between the EPA MPG estimates for a given vehicle and the MPG experienced by a driver can result from several factors, including driving conditions and driver behavior, vehicle maintenance, fuel characteristics, and variations in vehicles.

**Driving Conditions and Driver Behavior.** EPA's fuel economy estimates are based on laboratory tests conducted by vehicle manufacturers. EPA then verifies these tests on about 10-15% of each year's models. The tests, which are the same for all vehicles, are designed to simulate city and highway driving conditions. However, these tests cannot simulate the wide variety of conditions under which vehicles are driven or the variability in driver behavior.

**Vehicle Maintenance.** A poorly tuned engine burns more fuel, so fuel economy suffers if your engine is not in tune. Keeping tires at the correct pressure and changing the air filter on a regular basis can also improve fuel economy. Also, new energy-saving motor oils can improve fuel economy.

**Fuel Characteristics.** A vehicle's fuel economy depends on the energy content of the fuel on which it runs. The use of oxygenated fuels or reformulated gasoline (RFG), for example, can cause a small decrease (1-3%) in fuel economy. In addition, the energy content of gasoline varies by season. Typical summer conventional gasoline contains about 1.7% more energy than typical winter conventional gasoline.

**Variations in Vehicles.** Small variations in the way vehicles are manufactured and assembled can cause variations in MPG among vehicles of the same make and model. Usually these differences are small, but some drivers will see a marked deviation from the EPA estimates.

For more information, please visit [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov).