

miles per gallon

an EPA guide
for new car buyers



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a special program to help you, the new car buyer, select a 1974 automobile with good fuel economy.

WHAT IS FUEL ECONOMY?

Fuel economy is a term relating to the usage and cost of fuel. For your car, it is most often thought of as the miles-per-gallon performance of your automobile. It is important that you know the "gas mileage" of a car you are planning to buy, because of the fuel shortage and the rising cost of gasoline.

THE LABELING PROGRAM

To help you, EPA has prepared two labels. These labels show the fuel economy performance of various kinds of automobiles as determined from EPA tests. The auto manufacturers have been asked to participate in the EPA Labeling Program by displaying one of the two labels—specific or comparative—on their 1974 model year vehicles. Most U.S.-made and foreign-made cars and light trucks will bear one of these labels.

The Specific Label: This label gives the miles-per-gallon performance for the specific vehicle on which it is displayed. The label also gives comparative information about weight classes, range of miles per gallon, average miles per gallon, and fuel costs. As the prospective buyer, you can see how the fuel economy of a particular automobile compares with cars in other weight classes.

The Comparative Label: This label includes the same fuel-economy table as the specific label. The measured miles-per-gallon performance of the individual car, however, is not indicated on the comparative label. Instead, the weight class to which the car belongs is circled. This label will allow you to make general com-

parisons between weight classes and the corresponding fuel economy.

The EPA Fuel Economy Test: The EPA Test Procedure that was used to provide the information on the labels involves a 23-minute, 7.5-mile test under simulated commuter-type driving conditions. Top speed in the EPA test is 57 miles per hour, and the average speed is about 20 miles per hour. A machine called a dynamometer is used by professional drivers to insure that the results are accurate and scientifically comparable. If the cars were driven at constant speeds of 40 to 60 miles per hour on the highway, their miles-per-gallon rating would improve, but the comparison between the weight categories would remain approximately the same.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE FUEL ECONOMY

Many factors influence the fuel economy of your car. **Weight** is the most important built-in factor, and increases in weight cause the greatest fuel penalty. The label shows that a 5500-pound car averages only 8 miles per gallon for urban-suburban driving, while a 2000-pound car averages 24 miles per gallon. **Optional equipment** is another factor. In addition to increasing car weight, this equipment requires more energy and therefore more fuel for its operation. For example, an air conditioner in some cars can cause as much as a 10-20 percent fuel penalty when used under high temperature and high humidity conditions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO GET BETTER FUEL ECONOMY

- Make good fuel economy a requirement for your new car. If the gas mileage of the car that interests you is not shown on the label, ask your dealer or write to the En-

vironmental Protection Agency for this information.

- Before ordering optional equipment for your new car, find out from the dealer or manufacturer how much it will affect the car's fuel economy.
- Keep your car in good condition with proper maintenance. A car that is kept tuned to the manufacturer's specifications will give you better fuel economy and will cause less air pollution.
- Improve your driving habits. Frequent starts and stops, long periods of idling, and uneven speed decrease fuel economy.

POOR GAS MILEAGE MEANS HIGH FUEL COSTS

Determine how much money you can save by driving a car with good gas mileage. Calculate your annual fuel cost by this formula:

Multiply the yearly miles you drive by the cost of a gallon of gas. Then, divide the result by the miles per gallon your car achieves.

Compare your fuel cost with those of other weight classes on the label. Are you getting good fuel economy?

TEST RESULTS FOR 1974 AUTOMOBILES ARE AVAILABLE

Write for the 1974 EPA test results. A free list is available, giving the miles per gallon for all 1974 cars and light-duty trucks that EPA has tested. Also available is more information on optional equipment and other factors that affect fuel economy.

Write:

FUEL ECONOMY

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20460



ILLUSTRATIVE LABEL FOR 1974 VEHICLES—SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Based on the results of tests conducted or certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the fuel consumption of this vehicle is estimated to be

17 Miles Per Gallon

on an EPA test cycle which simulates commuter-type driving.

The table below shows miles-per-gallon (MPG) performance and fuel costs for vehicles in different weight categories. The test weight of and the measured fuel economy of this vehicle are circled. These figures are not indicative of performance during highway driving.

Vehicle Test Weight (lbs)	Range of MPG	Average MPG	Fuel Costs 10,000 mi. and 40¢/gal.
2,000	22-29	24	\$165
2,250	19-25	21.5	\$185
2,500	17-22.5	18.5	\$215
2,750	10.5-24.5	17.5	\$230
3,000 3,100	9-20	15 17	\$265 \$235
3,500	10.5-20	13.5	\$295
4,000	6.5-19	10.5	\$380
4,500	7.5-14	9.5	\$420
5,000	7-11	9	\$445
5,500	7-10.5	8	\$500

The actual fuel economy of this vehicle will depend on factors such as individual driving habits, the maintenance condition of the vehicle, and the optional equipment chosen. Additional fuel economy information is available from your dealer and from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460.

EXAMPLE: This label illustrates the type of information which would be presented on each car. This particular car weighs 3100 pounds and registered a fuel economy of 17 MPG. This fuel economy is 2 MPG better than the average for the car weight class. To drive 10,000 miles the buyer can expect to pay \$235 for gasoline, a savings of \$30 over the average cost for its weight class. As you can see, car weight is very important in determining fuel economy.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

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