

Observations on How to obtain decent gas mileage

We repair on average 6-8 coaches a month. From this experience along with my 700,000 miles on my own GMC, I have found the following facts. An average GMC coach should obtain 8-10 MPG. If you are getting less, then reviewing the following information may be helpful.

- 1) Check the tire pressure with an air gauge. Visual inspection is not precise enough on radial ply tires. Pressure should be 65-75 PSI
- 2) Keep the sewer tanks emptied and carry a minimum amount of fresh water. Fluids add a lot of dead weight.
- 3) Carry only the necessary heavy tools and spare parts.
- 4) You should cut down on engine "warm up" time, idling the engine causes it to take longer to warm up.
- 5) By reducing your air conditioning usage you stop the compressor from taking power away from the engine.
- 6) Using synthetic oil will cut down on friction.
- 7) Inspect the mechanical advance within the distributor. The rotor must pivot freely back & forth, also check the vacuum advance for movement.
- 8) Make sure the vacuum hose has a positive seal.
- 9) Inspect your air filter. If your filter restricts too much air volume into the engine then you have to open the throttle more.
- 10) You should drive 55-60 MPH and maintain constant speed.
- 11) Ignition wires need to be replaced more frequently on the GMC since the load is considerably more. Try to obtain a better than standard set for greater performance.
- 12) By pulling cooler air from outside the grill you'll produce more power and less throttle is needed.
- 13) Try advancing the timing. 2-3 degrees and take a test drive, make sure it doesn't pre-ignite. This procedure is called "Power Timing" and is used by Dyno shops to gain more power.
- 14) Pay attention to mufflers with baffles, they can shift causing extreme restriction to one side. This results in an overheated intake manifold, poor power and poor mileage.

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