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Does cold weather adversely affect fuel economy?

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Here's what the experts at additive specialists Redex say...

(Image and all words from Redex).



Do colder temperatures affect fuel economy?

“With colder temperatures during winter, you’re already likely spending more on heating your home,
but have you ever considered how the cold weather might affect how much you spend on fuel?

Here (below) are some of the ways that cold temperatures can affect fuel economy... For more detailed information please also follow the Redex link at the end of this feature.

Engine warm-up time

In cold weather, engines take longer to reach their optimal operating temperature, especially during short trips. While the engine is warming up, it’s normal for the car to idle at a higher RPM, reducing fuel economy.

Thicker engine oil

Cold conditions cause engine oil to thicken. This increases friction between moving parts and leads to higher fuel consumption. For this reason, it’s probably best to wait until the engine has got up to temperature, driving cautiously until this happens, ensuring that the engine oil is able to properly lubricate components.

(Kim adds, “To avoid premature/excessive wear, it’s always wise to avoid driving hard with a cold engine”.)



Aerodynamic drag

It doesn't matter if you're driving a Ferrari or a Fiat, your car's aerodynamic drag will be worsened in cold weather because cold air is denser than warm air. As always, aerodynamics increase with speed, so motorway journeys may be more expensive."

For much more information about this from Redex, please see:

<https://www.redexadditives.com/blog/how-cold-temperatures-affect-car-fuel/>