

## Fuel-Saving Devices Not Worth The Money

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SEATTLE - A lot of people are looking for ways to save gas money.

Some are even looking at fuel saving devices that promise more miles to the gallon.

Here's with information that will help you before you spend your money.

I'm starting to get the e-mails and the ads are all over the Internet. They're very tempting, but what you're seeing are essentially the same additives and gadgets we tested the last time gas prices went crazy.

Search the Web for gas savers and you'll find your pick of products with tempting promises to help you save gas. Some of the same promises got my attention two years ago.

We spent \$228 on 3 products -- a \$33 oil additive, an \$87 air swirl device, and a \$108 set of magnets that attach to the fuel line.

I enlisted the help of Triple A Master Technician Don Beyer.

"We're gonna start documenting the fuel mileage that we're actually getting right now," he said then.

Don and his team tracked the results on their Ford Rangers for 2 months. They drove between 1,100 and 2,000 miles each to see if the fuel savers would make a difference.

Here's what happened:

Before the oil additive, the mileage was 18.45 miles per gallon. After two months using the additive it was 18.42 - - barely a change.

The truck that had the swirl device got 14.87 miles a gallon before installation and 14.25 miles after.

And the magnets? 20.23 miles a gallon before. 20.7 miles a gallon after. About a 3 percent improvement, but not very much considering the magnets cost \$108.

Don Beyer and his team are keeping their eyes open for new gas saving technology that might really work.

"Sorry to say, we haven't come across any devices that show any different results that the tests than we ran some time ago," he said.

Other automotive experts agree: if you want to get the most for your gasoline dollar, put your money into car and tire maintenance, and watch your driving.

You can also get regular oil changes, keep your filters clean, and make sure your tires are in good condition with proper inflation.

Also, avoid fast acceleration and quick stops when you're driving.



Now, the Federal Trade Commission is very interested in the claims of some of these gas savers and they've taken action in the past.

So if you already spent money on a gadget and feel you were misled, report it to the FTC.

**For More Information:**

[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

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Earlier KOMO 4 News Story on Gas Saving Devices -- [www.komonews.com](http://www.komonews.com).