



OWNERSHIP & SAVINGS

Map Your Day: Plan Your Driving to Save Miles & Money

One planned loop beats five scattered trips, for your fuel budget, your vehicle, and your calendar.

A NOTE FROM OUR TEAM

Most of the miles we waste aren't on road trips. They're the quick runs to the store we could have made on the way home. Spend ten minutes on Sunday with this planner and you'll drive less, spend less, and put fewer miles on the vehicle you're working hard to pay for.

— The Auto Advocate Team

Every trip has a hidden cost: fuel, wear on tires and brakes, and miles that lower your vehicle's value. The cheapest mile is the one you never drive. This planner helps you group your week's errands into fewer, smarter loops, and gives you a clean mileage log if you drive for work.

1 Why One Loop Beats Five Trips

An engine is least efficient when it's cold. According to the Department of Energy's [fueleconomy.gov](https://www.fueleconomy.gov), **several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel** as one longer, multipurpose trip covering the same distance.

Combining errands also cuts the time you spend driving on a cold engine, saves time, and keeps the miles off your odometer.

2×

FUEL THAT COLD-START
SHORT TRIPS CAN USE VS.
ONE COMBINED TRIP

1/2

WEEKLY FUEL COST WHEN
YOU TAKE TURNS DRIVING
WITH A CARPOOL

Figures from [fueleconomy.gov](https://www.fueleconomy.gov) (U.S. Department of Energy and EPA). Actual results depend on your vehicle, route, and conditions.

2 Plan a Smarter Route in Six Steps

- 1 **Dump the list.** Write every errand for the week in the worksheet below, including the ones you usually make "real quick."
- 2 **Mark what's time-bound.** Pharmacy pickups, appointments, and school runs have fixed windows. Everything else can move.
- 3 **Group by area.** Cluster errands that are near each other or near places you already go, like work or the kids' school.
- 4 **Build the loop.** Enter your stops into a map app's multi-stop route feature, then try reordering them to find the shortest loop.
- 5 **Go farthest first.** Start with the most distant stop while traffic is lighter, and put cold or frozen groceries last.
- 6 **Dodge the rush.** [Fueleconomy.gov](https://www.fueleconomy.gov) suggests staggering your schedule to avoid peak rush hours when you can. Stop-and-go traffic burns fuel.

FROM THE INSIDE

Our team has spent years on the dealership side of the desk, and we've watched shoppers burn entire Saturdays driving from store to store with no plan. Shopping for a vehicle? Map it like an errand loop. Confirm the exact vehicle is in stock, set appointments at stores near each other, and know your numbers before you leave the house. A buyer who shows up prepared and on schedule gets taken seriously.

3

Weekly Errand Map

List everything first. Then assign each errand to an area and a day. Errands that share an area and a day become one loop.

ERRAND	AREA / PART OF TOWN	MUST BE DONE BY	TIME WINDOW	LOOP DAY	DONE
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐

4

The "One Loop" Day Planner

Put your stops in driving order. Write the odometer at the start and finish so you can see what the loop really cost.

Date _____ Start odometer _____ End odometer _____

STOP	WHERE	WHAT I'M DOING THERE	PLANNED ARRIVAL	MILES FROM LAST STOP
Start	Home	Leave with list, bags, and anything to return		—
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
Finish	Home	Cold and frozen items go in last		
Total loop miles				

SMALL HABITS THAT ADD UP

- ☐ Keep a running errand list on your phone all week
- ☐ Fuel up during a loop, not on a separate trip
- ☐ Batch returns, pickups, and drop-offs into one stop
- ☐ Use curbside pickup and delivery when it saves a drive
- ☐ Shut the engine off instead of idling in parking lots
- ☐ Share school runs and commutes with a carpool

5 Mileage Log for Work & Taxes

If you drive for work, a business, or a side gig, a clean mileage log matters. The IRS publishes a **standard mileage rate** each year. For 2026, the IRS set the business rate at **72.5 cents per mile**. Rates and rules can change, so confirm the current rate and what qualifies at [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov), and ask a tax professional how it applies to you. If you use one vehicle for both business and personal driving, only the business use counts, and the IRS expects adequate records to back it up.

[illegible]

Write entries at the time of the trip, not from memory at tax time. A log built months later is far harder to rely on.

PLAN THE BIGGEST TRIP OF ALL

You plan your errands. Let us plan your next purchase.

The same planning that saves miles every week saves real money when you buy a vehicle. With the Buyer Brief, we research rebates, incentivized rates, and fair pricing on the vehicles you're considering, and value your trade-in, so you only make the trips that matter.

Buyer Brief \$99

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THE DEALERSHIP HAS EXPERTS. NOW YOU DO, TOO.

SOURCES

U.S. Department of Energy & EPA, Planning and Combining Trips: fuelconomy.gov/feg/planning.shtml

U.S. Department of Energy & EPA, Driving More Efficiently: fuelconomy.gov/feg/driveHabits.jsp

U.S. Department of Energy, Consumer Guide to Vehicle Idling: energy.gov

Internal Revenue Service, IRS sets 2026 business standard mileage rate at 72.5 cents per mile (IR-2025-128): irs.gov/newsroom

Internal Revenue Service, Topic No. 510, Business use of car: [irs.gov/taxtopics/tc510](https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc510)

This planner is for general educational purposes and is not tax or legal advice. Mileage deduction rules depend on your situation. Confirm current rates and recordkeeping requirements at [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) or with a tax professional.