

City driving versus freeway driving

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Which is better for Your Automobile in the Long Run? This is a question that many of us have pondered at one point or another. As automobile owners, we are always looking for ways to maximize the life expectancy of the below 5 areas.

1. Fuel Efficiency

Fuel efficiency is higher on the highway as the speed limit is higher there and you don't have to make so many turns and stops every time the traffic lights turn red. Yes, you burn more gas on the highway, but you will go more miles than when you are driving in the city. Besides, every time you stop your automobile at the traffic lights and then try to reach the speed at which you were driving before, you burn much more gas than driving fast on a highway.

Fuel efficiency is also influenced by the wind resistance, which increases at higher speed. So, on one hand, the fuel efficiency is higher when you drive in the city simply because you have lower speed, but, on the other hand when driving on the highway, if you can catch the draft from behind another vehicle, preferably bigger one, this way your fuel efficiency will be increased.

If you have a new car, you can see the fuel efficiency both for city and highway driving listed in big, bold letters on the car's computerized dashboard.

2. Engine wear

When you are driving on a highway, you are obviously driving faster. This means that the oil pressure is higher. High oil pressure keeps your engine internal parts more lubricated, so they don't wear out fast and don't overheat. But this extra protection is just as necessary when you driving in city too, because of the constant stop and go traffic. This makes highway driving safer for your engine.

3. Transmission wear

Driving in the city, you shift the transmission more often; you slow down on the turns, stop on the red light and follow the car in front of you going slower and faster. Every time you shift the transmission you add wear to it, which makes highway driving more beneficial.

4. Brake wear

City driving is severe for your brakes, when driving in the city makes sure you do a brake check on a regular basis. Driving on the highway you don't use your brakes that often, simply because there is no need to stop, this way highway driving preserves your brakes longer.

5. Tires wear

Again, on the highway you don't stop as much as you are forced to stop driving in the city, and it protects not only your brakes, but your tires too, preventing wear and tear.

Taking into consideration all these facts highway driving turns out to be more beneficial for your automobile. City driving, on the opposite, will wear your automobile way faster, so driving in the city you should take better care of your engine, transmission, brakes, tires, etc. Of course, when you live in a big city you don't have much choice, but then you can always use public transportation for your benefit.

Although it is imperative that you drive safely whenever you are in the car, highway car safety requires a different set of rules than city street driving. Because of increased speeds, less light at night and a greater danger of exhausted drivers, it is arguably of more consequence should you drive unsafely on the highway than in the city. That is, of course, not to say that city driving should be taken lightly. Courteous driving, proper signaling and the obeying of light signals among other things are instrumental for maintaining car safety on surface streets.

City Street Car Safety

When driving on city surface roads, car safety is as important as when driving anywhere else. Due to the differences in traffic, speeds, obstacles and the presence of pedestrians, it has rules all its own. Traffic is usually limited to speeds of 45 mph or less on city streets, but there are many things you may encounter that you would not see on the highway. Frequent emergency vehicles, crosswalks, merging and turning vehicles and regular traffic lights are routine.

Safety on city streets requires you to constantly be on the lookout for pedestrians, bicycles, flashing lights and unsafe drivers. You cannot expect everyone to drive as they should, so you should always be on the defensive. Slowing down for school zones and potholes, letting busses merge into traffic, and generally being in no hurry help to ensure your safety and the safety of others is critical. Signaling before turning, using your headlights in the dark and keeping your car in good working order also help constitute safe driving.

Highway Car Safety

Highway car safety encompasses many of the same elements as driving in the city, but there are notable differences. Since speeds are greater--70 mph or faster depending on the state--driving automatically becomes more dangerous. Signaling is as, if not more, important than in the city. In order to make a safe lane change on the highway, signals are a must. There are few if any emergency vehicles on the highway, and pedestrians and bicyclists are seldom present. At night, however, because there are few streetlights and none in some stretches, maintaining your driving composure at high speeds can be nerve racking. If the lane lines or lane dividers are worn, discerning the lanes from the shoulder can be difficult as well.

Despite the fact that there are fewer non-vehicular obstacles, highway driving involves high speeds and frequent passing of large trucks. In high winds or bad weather, driving alongside a big-rig can be harrowing. Keeping within the speed limit, staying attentive to the flow of traffic and the cars around you,

using your car's safety features including turn signals and headlights are all ways to stay safe on the highway.

Whenever you drive it is vital that you practice good car safety. In both situations, using your car's proper safety devices is necessary, as is being aware of everything that is going on in front and to the side of you. Safe, defensive driving means obeying traffic laws, designed for your safety and others. It is as much an attitude as it is a skill. Keep composed and don't be hasty wherever you drive. Make car safety your top priority.

Knowing how to drive doesn't mean you have to treat all driving trips the same. Just by the difference in the thoroughfare traveled, a difference in speed, manner of driving, and areas of caution have to be considered. For the lifetime of a vehicle, it will travel through streets, avenues, highways, expressways, freeways, alleys, and other types of roads used by motorized traffic.

A good example of this is the big difference between city driving and highway driving. Drivers have to be aware of the challenges presented by each scenario and be prepared. Aside from speed, drivers will have to consider the difference in traffic, obstacles, and pedestrians.

City driving is relatively more complex than highway driving because of the inherent complexities of inner streets, smaller passageways, and circuitous roads as well as the expected co-occupants of the road while driving. The number of vehicles occupying a city street in a given time in relation to space is much more than a highway. Because of the great disparity in size of the driving surface, city drivers will find that they are closer in distance to other vehicles and therefore have a greater tendency for minor vehicular accidents that often result to scrapes and dents. Highway driving on the other hand presents more risk for high-speed collision because of the typical faster speed adopted by vehicles traveling what appears to be a free expanse of road.

When it comes to obstacles found on streets, city driving presents more problems. There will be parked cars on streets that can block a driver's view for incoming traffic. People will dart in and out of streets either on foot, on bicycles, or also on cars. Loading and unloading from vehicles is frequent and may require constant stops from other vehicles. Heavy traffic is also common in many main thoroughfares. Highway driving requires drivers to be extra careful of environmental factors since driving on highways presents more exposure to the natural elements.

Common people opinion about driving on city driving and freeway driving

1. You drive at a faster continuous rate of speed usually. More stop and go in city driving because of intersections and pedestrian. Most people also over estimate their stopping power when doing highway speed.
2. In highway driving you are usually going much faster (look at the speed limits) and have to be primarily concerned with the actions of other drivers.

3. In city driving you are travelling slower, (but you have to watch out for homicidal maniacs like tomhale138) but you to deal with pedestrians, cyclists, roller blades. Skate boarders, and vehicles that make frequent stops like buses and delivery trucks
4. Depends on how do you drive and where. I usually do about 115 km/h everywhere I go; ignoring the 40 km/h limit in the city, so there is no difference there. That is safe, because where I live there are no pedestrians, stop signs, or bumper to bumper traffic jams. There are no buildings either, and on the highway there aren't any trees or animals. So I basically make the same time and use the same amount of gas in both, there are no differences.
5. Highway driving keeps your motor at the same rpm so the engine saves fuel. It is also ok to run your ac on the highway it saves fuel.
6. You go MUCH faster there are no turns or stops.
7. The traffic can be reduced to stop and go traffic but this is only because of an accident or tools. Other than that is all about merging in and staying at the right speed in the proper lane then taking your exit. Highway driving is faster and requires far fewer stops and speed changes (which is why it is more fuel efficient). Highways driving you drive at a much faster speed than city driving. Also the road isn't as wide in city driving.

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