

## How Vehicles Are Tested

Fuel economy is measured under controlled conditions in a laboratory using a standardized test procedure specified by federal law. Manufacturers test their own vehicles—usually pre-production prototypes—and report the results to EPA. EPA reviews the results and confirms about 10%–15% of them through their own tests at the National Vehicles and Fuel Emissions Laboratory.

### Estimating MPG with Laboratory Tests

In the laboratory, the vehicle's drive wheels are placed on a machine called a dynamometer that simulates the driving environment—much like an exercise bike simulates cycling.

The energy required to move the rollers can be adjusted to account for wind resistance and vehicle's weight.

[prev](#)[next](#)[Share](#)

---

### ALSO IN THIS SECTION...

[How Vehicles Are Tested](#)[Which Vehicles Are Tested](#)[Detailed Test Information](#)

---

### RELATED TOPICS...

[Your Mileage Will Vary](#)[Factors That Affect Fuel Economy](#)

[2008 Ratings Changes](#)

[Compare Original and New MPG Estimates](#)

---

[Mobile](#) | [Español](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Links](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Videos](#) | [Contacts](#) |  
[Download EPA's MPG Ratings](#) | [Find and Compare Cars](#) | [USA.gov](#) | [Info for Auto Dealers](#) |  
[Privacy/Security](#) | [Feedback](#)

