

Vehicle Idling



Vehicle idling – it's no idle threat! An idling vehicle is not only wasteful, but harmful to the environment and those around you. Engine idling contributes to air pollution that negatively affects public health, creates noise pollution, and increases engine maintenance costs.

According to [a study funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Program](#), if each car in the U.S. were to idle just six minutes per day, about 3 billion gallons of fuel would be wasted annually, costing drivers \$10 billion or more. The study also found that idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more carbon dioxide than restarting your vehicle. The bottom line is that idling gets you nowhere!

You can take some simple actions to reduce idling, such as:

- Turn your vehicle off when it is stopped and in park, for example while waiting to drop off or pick up children at school.
- Use alternative travel routes or avoid peak travel times where stand-still traffic may occur.
- Choose to eat or purchase food inside of restaurants rather than idling in drive-thru lines.
- Consider driving a hybrid or electric vehicle.

To learn more, read this U.S. Department of Energy article, called "[Idling Reduction for Personal Vehicles.](#)"

