

Anti-Idling Fact Sheet

Did you know that...

- Frequently turning your vehicle off and on won't damage your engine. Frequently restarting has little impact on engine parts. In fact, idling decreases the operating life of engine oil by 75 per cent.
- You don't need to warm up your engine before driving on a cold day. The best way to warm it up is to drive it. Many parts of a vehicle do not begin to warm up until you drive the vehicle.
- Idling isn't good for your engine because an idling engine isn't operating at its peak temperature.
- You don't need to run your vehicle to operate the safety equipment. Safety equipment can be operated without the engine running through re-wired circuitry for up to an hour with no ill-effects on the electrical systems.
- Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your engine. However, the break-even time to offset potential maintenance costs to the starter or battery is under 60 seconds. If you're stopped for more than 60 seconds, except in traffic, turn off the engine.
- Idling causes spark plugs to become dirtier more quickly. This can cause an increase in fuel consumption by four to five per cent.
- Excessive idling lets water condense in the vehicle's exhaust system, which can lead to corrosion.
- Idling contributes to air pollution and children are particularly vulnerable. They breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per pound of body weight.
- Canadian motorists idle their vehicles an average of five to 10 minutes per day.
- A recent study suggests that in the peak of winter, Canadians voluntarily idle their vehicles for a combined total of more than 75 million minutes a day. This is equal to one vehicle idling for 144 years.
- If 1,000 drivers avoided idling for 3 minutes a day it would reduce fuel use by almost 25,000 litres a year, saving them approximately \$25,000 annually and reducing over 59,000 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Sources:

<http://www.idlefreebc.ca/index.php>

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/idling/facts.cfm?attr=8>

<http://air.greenventure.ca/idling-facts-and-myths>

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/tools/calculators/Idling/idlingimpact-workplace.cfm?attr=16>