



AIR CENTRAL TEXAS

YOU HOLD THE KEY TO BE IDLE FREE

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT VEHICLE IDLING?

- Idling your vehicle when parked for more than a few seconds to several minutes pollutes everyone's air.
- Idling can contribute to some serious human health conditions and damage airways.
- Idling wastes fuel, increases vehicle maintenance costs, and can shorten vehicle life.
- Personal vehicles waste about 3 billion gallons at a cost of \$10 billion dollars annually on 0-mpg fuel per year
- Idling personal vehicles waste about 3 billion gallons of fuel at a cost of \$10 billion dollars annually

IS VEHICLE IDLING ACTUALLY HAPPENING?

Yes!

- Waiting in line at drive-through restaurants, pharmacies and banks, or
- Sitting in your vehicle listening to a favorite song, making or wrapping up a phone call, waiting for the school bell to ring.

BUT WHAT IF...

...I need to warm up the engine?

Driving today's vehicles help the engine reach its ideal operating temperature faster than idling it.

...I don't want to ruin my engine by turning it on and off?

Today's gasoline and diesel vehicles do not suffer damage by being turned on and off. Starters and batteries are much more durable now than they were in the past.

SO HOW CAN I AVOID IDLING?

- Turn off your car when you are idling for more than 5 minutes, except in traffic.
- Drive a hybrid-electric vehicle – hybrid engines shut off when they are not moving.
- Limit the use of remote starters.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

- Contact your local Clean Cities coalition (cleancities.energy.gov).
- Talk to local leaders and school officials to ask that anti-idling signs be posted where school buses and vehicles wait.
- Work on a district-wide anti-idling campaign.
- Talk to local drive-through businesses about idling's air-quality impacts. Suggest that signs be posted to remind patrons not to idle.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Clean Cities: CleanCities.energy.gov
- Fueleconomy: FuelEconomy.gov

Figure 2: CleanCites.Energy.gov

Reference: U.S. Department of Energy

