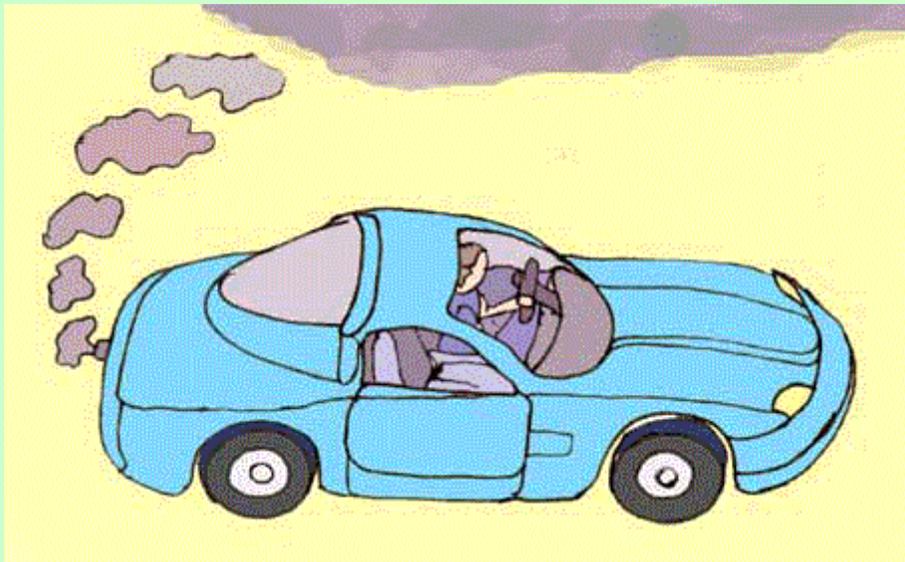


# All About Idling



*An Anti-Idling Campaign for Buena Vista  
Township*

# What is Idling?

The definition of idling is leaving a car engine on when the car is parked or not being used. This can happen often, in cases such as:

- Leaving the car running while making a quick purchase
- Leaving the car running while waiting to pick someone up
- Running the engine to warm up or cool off the interior of the car
- Running the engine to warm up the engine during winter
- Using a car-accessible ATM

As you can see, idling has become a common practice to many motorists; however, it has numerous drawbacks, which hurt the environment and public health.

## How Idling Affects You

You might think idling is easier on your engine than having to restart the engine; however, idling for more than 10 seconds is more fuel consuming and more engine hurting than restarting your car. While idling, the car engine is not at optimal conditions, and thus creates dangerous byproducts such as fuel residue and excess condensation. These byproducts can lead to:

- Contaminated oil
- Corroded exhaust system
- Spark plug deterioration
- Increased fuel compensation

When idling, your car will also have the worst possible gas mileage: 0 miles per gallon. With fuel costs rising, wasting fuel on idling can start to add up. Idling for just 10 minutes consumes only .026 gallons – or about 1/40<sup>th</sup> a gallon – yet costs, on average, about 10 cents! Think of how much idling you do every day, and imagine how much it costs over the course of a year. Idling just 10 minutes daily can cost \$36 every year!

# How Idling Affect the Public and the Environment

Idling does not only affect your wallet and car, but also the health of the public and the environment. Harmful chemical emissions are created while idling, such as:

- Carbon Monoxide
- Carbon Dioxide
- Particulate Matter
- Nitrogen Oxides
- Volatile Organic Compounds

Carbon Monoxide is poisonous, and Particulate Matter, along with Nitrogen Oxides and Volatile Organic Compounds, can cause many health concerns, including:

- Coughing
- Breathing difficulty
- Decreased lung function
- Aggravated asthma
- Cardiovascular (Heart) problems
- Chronic Bronchitis

Carbon Dioxide is a greenhouse gas, which means it contributes to the phenomena of Global Climate Change. While regular driving does, too, create Carbon Dioxide, as well as some other chemicals listed, driving has become a modern necessity, while idling is preventable.

# How can I help?

Following these tips should help you reduce your time spent idling dramatically:

- Walk or ride a bike to local convenient stores or nearby ATMs when possible
- Use public transportation
- Don't idle to warm up or cool down your car
- Spend only 30 seconds or less to warm up your engine in Winter
- Turn off your car when parked



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