

The Problem

Idling wastes fuel and money; increases air pollution and is a needless source of greenhouse gas emissions which causes climate change.

Canadian motorists idle their vehicles an average of 5 to 10 minutes per day.

One 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 equivalent to one vehicle idling for 144 years.

Idling Myths & Facts

With the proper information we can all be idle-free drivers. Read about idling myths and facts to learn why “Idling gets you nowhere!”

Myth: The engine needs to be warmed up before driving.

Fact: The best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it gently. Even in cold weather you need no more than 30 seconds of idling (or just long enough to defog the windshield) before driving away.

Myth: The drive-thru lane is an efficient way to get your banking done or to grab a coffee.

Fact: Any time your engine is idling money and fuel are being wasted. Banking online and filling a travel mug with coffee made at home are much better options.

Myth: Idling is better for your engine than frequent restarting.

Fact: An idling engine will leave soot deposits that can build up and cause oil contamination. This can damage engine components, including cylinders, spark

plugs and exhaust systems. This is true for diesel engines too.

Myth: Shutting off and restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine and uses more gas than if you leave it running.

Fact: Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and the starter motor. Component wear caused by very frequent restarting of the engine is estimated to add a minuscule \$10 per year to the cost of driving.

Myth: Remote control engine starters are great for warming your engine in winter.

Fact: Remote starters waste fuel. Plugging in an electric engine block heater on a timer so your car is ready when you come out saves fuel and doesn't wear your engine. If you must use a remote starter then turn it on only after your coat and boots are on and you have stepped outside.

Myth: Idling is the best way to clear an icy windshield.

Fact: A good quality scraper is quick and easy. Using a windshield cover can eliminate the need to scrape.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ▶ Reduce warm-up idling to 30 seconds
- ▶ If you are going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds, turn your engine off (except in traffic)
- ▶ Avoid using a remote car starter
- ▶ When the temperature drops below 0°C, consider using a block heater to warm your vehicle's engine two hours you start it
- ▶ Spread the word to your family and friends
- ▶ Remember that idling gets you nowhere!

Idling & Climate Change



An operating vehicle emits a range of gases from its tailpipe into the atmosphere, one of which is carbon dioxide CO₂ – the principal greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

CO₂ is a colourless, odourless, gas that is a normal part of Earth's atmosphere. However, when the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere increases, more heat is trapped. This "enhanced greenhouse effect" causes Earth's surface temperature to rise, which in turn is altering the world's climate.

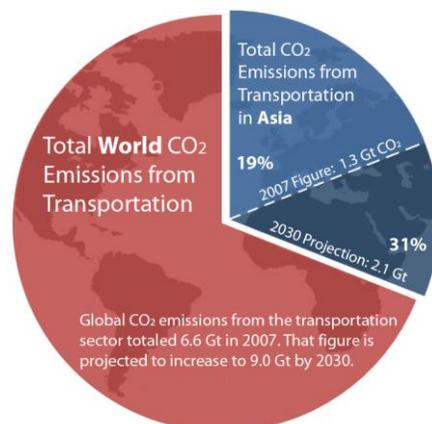
CO₂ is an unavoidable by-product of burning gasoline. Each litre of gasoline that is used produces about 2.3 kg of CO₂. Therefore, every time you start the



engine, you're contributing to climate change. With internal combustion engines, no technology exists for eliminating CO₂ emissions. One simple and effective way to reduce the production of CO₂ emissions from light-duty vehicles is by choosing to eliminate unnecessary vehicle idling. This is an action that you – as a driver – can take. Driving less is also a good choice.

If Canadian motorists avoided idling for just three minutes every day of the year, CO₂ emissions could be reduced by 1.4 million tonnes annually. This would be equal to saving 630 million litres of fuel and equivalent to taking 320,000 cars off of the road for the entire year.

Eliminating unnecessary idling is one easy action that Canadians can take to reduce their GHG emissions that are contributing to climate change.




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