

PLEASE TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF



EXHAUST IS HARMFUL

HAVE YOU EVER LEFT YOUR CAR RUNNING WHILE...

- Waiting to pick someone up
- Running errands
- Waiting for a train to pass
- To warm it up on cold mornings?

If you said YES to any of these, you've idled your car. Idling is running the engine of a vehicle while it is not going anywhere.

Idling happens without much thought. Focus groups show that the three top reasons people idle their cars are: 1) it doesn't occur to them to turn it off; 2) to maintain comfort, and; 3) the mistaken belief that shutting your car off and then turning it back on uses more gas. Many people idle their cars because they think it's easy, convenient and efficient. But that's wrong. Idling is harmful to our air quality, our health, our cars and our wallets!

THE COST OF IDLING

Based on 2007 survey data, Fort Collins drivers waste over 100,000 gallons of fuel (now worth \$270,000) each winter from idling vehicles in the morning to warm them up.

5 EASY WAYS TO STOP IDLING AND BREATHE EASY

1. Turn off your ignition if you're waiting more than 30 seconds
2. Stop idling while the train is passing.
3. Stop idling at school drop-off zones
4. Park and go inside instead of using the drive-thru lane.
5. Warm up your engine by driving slowly, not by idling.

HOW IDLING AFFECTS AIR QUALITY

Cars are the number one source of air pollution in Fort Collins. Like driving, idling releases emissions into the air. Unlike driving, idling is 100% inefficient and gives you ZERO miles per gallon.

POLLUTANT	CONTRIBUTES TO
Nitrogen oxides - NOx	Ground level ozone; smog
Volatile organic compounds - VOC	Ground level ozone; smog
Carbon monoxide - CO	Ground level ozone
Carbon dioxide - CO ₂	Global warming
Mobile source air toxics such as benzene and formaldehyde - n/a	Acute and chronic health impacts

HOW IDLING AFFECTS YOUR HEALTH

- Idling fumes are linked to asthma, decreased lung function, cardiac disease, cancer and other serious health problems.
- 89,000 children in Colorado have asthma.
- 29% of Fort Collins residents have a member of their household with a respiratory disease.
- People often idle right where we breathe; along sidewalks, schools yards, playgrounds, hospitals, etc.
- Children spend more time outdoor than adults, which further increases their exposure to vehicle emissions.
- According to the EPA, diesel exhaust contains both very small particles and 40 chemicals that are classified as "hazardous air pollutants" under the Clean Air Act.
- Exposure to most car pollutants is much higher inside cars than along the roadside, up to 7 times the outside air level, according to the International Center for Technology Assessment.

