

Facts & References

Keep the Air Healthy



Air monitoring at schools has shown elevated levels of toxins during pick-up times as parents idle their cars while they wait for their kids.¹

Children are especially at risk because their lungs are still developing and they inhale more air per pound of body weight.¹

[Vehicles Idling at Schools Video](#) from Sustainable America²

Save Fuel & Money



For the average vehicle with a 3 litre engine, every 10 minutes of idling costs over one quarter of a litre (over 1 cup) in wasted fuel – and up to one half of a litre if your vehicle has a 5 litre engine.³

If all drivers reduced needless idling by 3 minutes a day, we would save \$630 million per year, equal to taking 320 000 cars off the road for a year.⁴

Idling strips oil from critical engine components like cylinders and pistons.⁵

Instead of needless idling, use a timer to switch on a block heater ~2 hours before you plan to leave. At -20°C, block heaters can improve overall fuel economy by as much as 10 percent.⁶

Even idling diesel engines longer than 7 minutes is typically ill-advised and provides no benefit regardless of climate conditions. A diesel will almost always require driving to reach full operating temperature.⁷

Table: Annual fuel use for various vehicle engine sizes and idle times.⁸

¹<https://iturnitoff.com/resources.html>

²<http://bit.ly/VehicleIdlingatSchools>

³<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/idling/facts.cfm?attr=8>

⁴nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/oee/pdf/transportation/idling/material/pdf/idling-e-f-low-res.pdf

⁵www.businessinsider.com/heres-what-idling-your-car-in-the-morning-is-doing-to-your-engine-and-its-not-good-2016-1

⁶<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/communities-infrastructure/transportation/idling/4465>

⁷<http://www.dieselhub.com/tech/warm-up-cool-down.html>

⁸<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/communities-infrastructure/transportation/idling/4457>