

Fact Sheet

When cars and buses idle, their emissions increase dramatically, and these emissions include chemicals that have a negative affect on human health and the environment. **If you need to wait for more than 10 seconds**, turn off your vehicle to help reduce exhaust fumes emitted in the environment and around your school.

It's
Not Cool
to Idle
at School!

First, let's dispel the myths:

Many people idle their vehicles because they think it is better for their cars or uses less fuel. But think again! Here are a few simple facts to set drivers straight.

1

Restarting your engine uses more fuel than idling.

False!

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your engine.

2

Idling helps to warm up my car, especially in colder weather.

False!

Idling a vehicle is not an effective way to warm it up. The best way to warm up a car is to drive it.

3

Frequent restarting is hard on my car engine and battery.

False!

Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and starter motor.

4

Idling won't hurt the vehicle – if anything it helps it run better.

False!

Excessive idling is hard on engines and can damage cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems.

Get more facts on the back! 

Did you know?

A single car dropping off and picking up kids at school can put **three pounds of pollution** into the air each month. If parents band together and pledge not to idle at school, they can significantly reduce air pollution in our environment and around our schools. Remember...**It's not cool to idle at school!**



Idling facts:

1

An idling vehicle emits 20 times more pollution than one traveling 32 mph. By turning off your engine, you can reduce global warming, pollution, and smog.

2

Air pollutants from your vehicle's idling engine – ozone, sulfur dioxides, and particulate matter – are respiratory irritants. When inhaled, they can work together to increase asthma symptoms.

3

Vehicles left idling in traffic areas around schools cause surrounding buildings to have significantly higher pollution levels – inside and out.

4

Children are more vulnerable to air pollution because they breathe 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than do adults.

5

A single car dropping off and picking up kids at a school can put three pounds of pollution into the air each month.

6

Vehicle exhaust contains carbon which mixes with oxygen in the air to form carbon dioxide, a major contributor to human-caused global warming.

7

Breathing car exhaust can increase asthma symptoms – especially in children. In 2007, 73,000 children under the age of 18 were reported to have asthma in Oregon.

By turning off your vehicle's engine when parked or waiting, you can reduce air pollution around your school!



Asthma is reaching epidemic proportions in Oregon.

More than 282,000 Oregon residents have been diagnosed. In 2007, an estimated **73,000 Oregon children** under the age of 18 were reported to have asthma. Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of many school absences. In 2003 alone, children who had at least one asthma attack (about 4 million American children) collectively missed **12.8 million school days** due to asthma.



Remember, It's Not Cool to Idle at School! Take the pledge and spread the word!

Want to know more?

Visit our website for more information and additional resources on the effects of idling: www.oconline.org.