



Vehicle idling action

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Idling engines contribute to local air pollution, which is harmful to health. If you would like to help improve local air quality, please switch off your engine if parked for a minute or longer.

Idling: the myths and the truth

Idling is 'fuelish' for all sorts of reasons, yet many of us still do it. So our myth-buster guide is here to give you the facts:

Myth

If it's cold outside, I need to keep the engine running to keep the heater on.

If I'm parked on a yellow line, keeping my engine running means I won't get a fine.

But surely it's better to idle because stopping and starting will wear out the engine?

But surely idling does not contribute very much to air pollution in the grand scheme of things.

Truth

If you switch the engine off when you park and keep the ignition on, the heater should stay warm for up to 30 minutes.

Traffic wardens can fine you if you are parked somewhere you shouldn't be, whether your engine is running or not.

This is no longer a problem with modern engines and by not idling you will use less fuel and reduce your fuel costs.

Research has shown that switching off engines when parked can reduce pollution levels in the street where the vehicle is parked.

But, but, but...No ifs, No buts, No idling!

Idling your engine unnecessarily is an offence and you could be fined.

Idling is fuelish

Idling creates fumes that can damage your health



Switch off engines for cleaner air

Air pollution and idling

Poor air quality is a major health concern, and the main source of pollution is road transport. Some vehicle journeys cannot be helped, but leaving your engine running when parked (idling) creates unnecessary pollution. Putting a stop to idling is a simple way we can all help to clean up the air that we breathe.

Vehicle Idling Action

Air Quality Champions in London and across the country are encouraging behaviour change in a positive way. They are asking drivers to switch off their engines when parked for more than a minute, to help improve local air quality.

To find out more about air quality and idling, please visit the Vehicle Idling Action website, or talk to your local authority.