

Many people think leaving your vehicle idling is harmless. The simple truth? Idling your car or truck is harmful. Exhaust from idling has many health and environmental risks, and even costs you money.

The best part is that it's avoidable. You can save money, save the environment and protect the health of you and your loved ones. The key to making a difference is in your hands. And it's as simple as turning it.

Making a difference is as easy as turning a key. You'll breathe easier, save money and prolong the life of your vehicle. But more than anything, your vehicle won't be emitting unnecessary pollution. It's good for you, it's good for your neighbour and it's good for the environment.

For more information, phone 250.427.9325 or visit [www.wildsight.ca](http://www.wildsight.ca).

# Idling will get you nowhere.



## There's no reason to idle your car...

## Myth:

- Leaving your car running saves more gas than restarting.
- Idling doesn't damage the engine at all.
- It doesn't cost a lot to leave the car running.
- Turning off the engine won't have any environmental benefits.



## Truth:

- Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than turning off an engine and restarting it.
- Excessive idling can contaminate engine oil and damage engine components.
- A car idling for just ten minutes a day wastes more than 100 litres of gasoline over the course of a year. At \$1.10 per litre, you can save more than \$110 annually.
- By avoiding idling their cars for just five minutes each day, Canadians could prevent more than 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and other toxic substances from entering the atmosphere each year.
- On average, Canadian drivers allow their engines to idle for five to 10 minutes a day. In the peak of winter, Canadians voluntarily idle their vehicles for a combined total of more than 75 million minutes a day – the equivalent of one vehicle idling for 144 years.
- Even the newest, most fuel-efficient cars emit harmful pollutants.

## Health Facts:

**Vehicle emissions contain many chemicals that harm our health. These chemicals impair our lungs and hearts, irritate our eyes and reduce our capacity to work and learn.**

Emissions are particularly damaging in children as their lungs are still developing.

Vehicle emissions:

- Have been linked to cancer.
- Aggravate asthma, leading to more frequent and severe asthma attacks.
- Increase the number of respiratory infections.
- Aggravate and induce allergies.

## Tips:

Avoid 'quick errand' idling. Turn off your engine when you run into a corner store or grab a coffee. Leaving your engine running produces greenhouse gas emissions and costs you money.

On winter nights, place a cover on your windshield to avoid idling time needed to defrost.

Idling is an open invitation to car thieves. Turn off your car and lock the door if you want your car to be there when you get back.



## Where Can You Start?

**In any season in our region, harsh weather conditions can make idling seem like a necessity. But it's not! Here are five easy ways to reduce vehicle idling:**

1. Start driving after no more than 30 seconds of idling, even in freezing temperatures. By the time you're put on your seatbelt and checked the mirrors, your engine is warmed and ready to go.
2. If you are going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds (except in traffic), turn off your engine. Idling your vehicle for longer than 10 seconds uses more fuel than it would take to restart the vehicle.
3. Avoid using a remote vehicle starter. This device encourages you to start your vehicle before you are ready to leave. This means wasted fuel, wasted money and more emissions.
4. In temperatures below freezing, use a block heater to warm the engine before you start your vehicle. This will improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions.
5. Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about the benefits of reduced idling. Encourage them to join you in saving money, protecting the environment and contributing to a healthier community.