

Smart SCHOOLS



Don't Idle

Great Reasons Not To Idle

1. **You save money by saving gas.** Ten minutes of idling per day can use as much as \$180.00 worth of gas per year. Wasted gasoline adds up to lots of wasted dollars – and it doesn't even get you anywhere!
2. **You will be helping people who have asthma or other respiratory diseases.** Air pollution can bring on an asthma attack and make breathing difficult for people whose respiratory systems are sensitive. Try breathing through a straw to see how it feels when your lung passages are constricted.
3. **You prevent theft.** According to the Indianapolis Police Department, as many as 25% of stolen cars were left with the keys in the ignition and the motor running!
4. **It's better for your engine.** Cars are not designed to run for extended periods of time at idle. Idling causes unnecessary wear and tear on your engine and actually results in deposits of fuel residues on your engine's cylinder walls that can contaminate oil and damage components.
5. **It reduces air pollution.** An idling car produces air pollution, even though the car is not going anywhere. Ten minutes of idling per day adds more than 50 pounds of carbon monoxide, particles, nitrogen oxides and other toxic gases to the air per year. If you are going to be idling for more than 30 seconds, your car will emit more air pollution than if you turn it off and on again.
6. **It won't hurt your starter.** Your vehicle's starter is designed to turn the car off and on thousands of times without causing any damage to the starter or any of the engine components.
7. **You set a good example.** By conserving fuel and protecting the environment, you set a great example for your children, and you help spread the word to other adults.
8. **You avoid waste.** Nobody likes waste. Unnecessary idling is wasteful, because your car is burning gasoline but not taking you anywhere. Since oil is not a renewable resource, we should use it wisely and not waste it.

Smart Schools Don't Idle is a program of Improving Kids' Environment.

To learn more visit www.ikecoalition.org.

