

What Is Idling?

Idling is running a vehicle engine when it's not moving. While some idling is hard to avoid, most idling is wasteful and avoidable.

Why Care About Idling?

Idling is expensive.

An idling car wastes up to .5 gallon per hour; a medium-duty truck may waste even more. While individual episodes may be small, the cumulative impacts of idling are large.

Idling pollutes.

Each gallon of fuel burned emits about 20 lbs. of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

Idling threatens health.

Tailpipe emissions contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, which can damage lungs.

Idling can be against the law.

Idling laws differ by location, vehicle type/weight, fuel type, and outside temperature.

What Can YOU Do About Idling?

YOU CAN BE AWARE

- Turn off vehicles when not moving.
- When available, use waiting rooms at depots and assembly areas instead of idling.

YOU CAN EDUCATE DRIVERS

- Adopt an idling reduction policy.
- Ask drivers to make a pledge to reduce idling.
- Host an idling reduction workshop or driver training sessions.
- Post signs to remind drivers not to idle at your facility.

For more information about idling, visit cleancities.energy.gov/idlebox

