



Clean Air Zone Program

Exhaust from vehicles is the leading source of toxic air pollution in Washington State—unnecessary vehicle idling is a major contributor to this pollution.

By turning off your engine whenever you're stopped for more than 30 seconds you can help to create no-idle zones—keeping our air clean and our communities healthy.

Remember—Idling = 0 mpg!



Serving Island, Skagit & Whatcom Counties

For over 35 years, it has been the Northwest Clean Air Agency's job to ensure that people in our region have clean air to breathe. This is accomplished through the following programs & services:

- Asbestos
- Business Assistance
- Climate Change
- Complaint Response
- Enforcement
- Indoor Air
- Outdoor Burning
- Public Information
- Permitting
- Wood Stoves

For more information about these or other services, please visit us on the web at www.nwcleanair.org.

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**RESources**
for Sustainable Communities
www.re-sources.org

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No-Idle Zones

It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air

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Idling Dangers

- Vehicle exhaust contains a mix of small particles and chemicals classified as “hazardous air pollutants.”
- Exposure to vehicle exhaust increases the risk of cancer, heart and lung disease, asthma and allergies.
(American Cancer Society)
- Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children.
(American Lung Association)
- One hour of idling burns up to a gallon of fuel and produces approximately 20 pounds of carbon dioxide—the principal greenhouse gas contributing to climate change.
- A single vehicle dropping off and picking up kids at one school puts three pounds of pollution into the air per month.
- Idling for 20 minutes generates the same amount of dangerous emissions as driving nearly 320 miles.
- Idling for over 30 seconds wastes more fuel than turning your vehicle engine off and on.

Myths and Facts About Idling Vehicles

Myth: The engine should be warmed up before driving.

Fact: The best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it. With today’s modern engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days.

Myth: Idling is good for your engine.

Fact: Excessive idling can be hard on your engine because it isn’t working at peak operating temperature. Fuel doesn’t undergo complete combustion, leaving spark plugs dirty and contaminating engine oil.

Myth: Turning your vehicle on and off is hard on the engine and uses more gas than leaving it running.

Fact: Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like battery and starter motor. Wear caused by restarting is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving, money likely recovered several times over in fuel savings.

What You Can Do

Step 1: Reduce warm-up idling to 30 seconds.

Step 2: If you are going to be stopped for more than 30 seconds, turn your engine off (except in traffic). Turn it off while in school zones, drive-throughs, or ferry lines.

Step 3: Carpool, walk, take the bus or bike whenever possible.

It all adds up to cleaner air! Thank you for helping to improve the air quality in your neighborhoods and the air we breathe!

