County Vehicle Use – No Idling

Consequences and Prevention

Turn Your Key, Be Idle Free

Each year, idling vehicles in the U.S. consume more than 6 billion gallons of diesel and gasoline—without even moving. Roughly half of that fuel is wasted by noncommercial passenger vehicles – the millions of individual drivers waiting "just a few minutes" to pick up friends or family, or waiting to move forward in line at a drive-thru. Unnecessary idling not only wastes fuel, but also contributes a significant amount of emissions into the air each day.

Turning your key when stopped for more than 10-30 seconds is a small change with big returns:

Not idling saves money

It is estimated that the average driver idles his or her vehicle for 10 minutes each day. Considering, an idling car wastes between 0.2 - 0.6 gallon per hour, drivers all across America are consuming significant amounts of fuel to go nowhere. Over time this translates to considerable fuel costs and engine wear.

Not idling reduces pollution

When a vehicle is idling, it continues to release emissions into the air. Additionally, when a vehicle is not moving, more pollutants are able to enter the cab.

Not idling supports public health

Tailpipe emissions contribute to Particulate Matter (PM2.5) in the air, and the formation of ground-level ozone. These pollutants aggravate respiratory and cardiovascular problems, especially in children who take more air into their lungs per minute than adults.

Not idling follows the law

No vehicle or engine subject to the diesel regulation may idle for more than 5 consecutive minutes. This regulation took effect under California law on June 15, 2008. (California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 3, Article 1, Chapter 10, section 2485(c)).

Idling Myths

The engine should be warmed up before driving.
Idling is not an effective way to warm up your vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive the vehicle. With today's modern engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before driving away.

Idling Myths

Idling is good for your engine.

Excessive idling can actually damage your engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems. Fuel is only partially combusted when idling because an engine does not operate at its peak temperature. This leads to the build up of fuel residues on cylinder walls that can damage engine components and increase fuel consumption.

Idling Myths

Shutting off and restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine and uses more gas than if you leave it running.

Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and the starter motor. Component wear caused by restarting the engine is estimated to add $10 per year to the cost of driving, money that will likely be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling. The bottom line is that more than ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

Telematics Device Reports

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Scheduled Report — Pacific Daylight Time

Report: Idle Time

Selected Groups:	All Groups	Average Idle Pct:	60.2%
Selected Attributes:	Matches Any: All Attributes	Average Idle Time(hh:mm):	38:24
Report Run Date/Time:	5/24/16 4:21 PM PDT	Total Idle Time(hh:mm):	1516:10
Report Time Period:	4/1/16 12:00 AM - 5/2/16 12:00 AM	Total Operating Time(hh:mm):	2424:13
Total Vehicles in Report	38/93	Report Time Window:	12:00 AM- 12:00 AM
Minimum Idle Filter (minute):	5	Day of the Week:	Full Week
Idle Percentage Threshold:	>= 30%		
Idle Hours Threshold:	N/A		

Vehicle Label	Driver	Total Operating Time(hh:mm)	Drive Time(hh:mm)	Total Idle Time(hh:mm)	Total Idle Percentage	Filtered Idle Time(hh:mm)	Filtered Idle Percentage
1244	Unassigned	37:50	23:13	14:37	38.63%	14:06	37.26%
4531	Unassigned	54:51	23:09	31:43	57.81%	30:31	55.64%
4535	Unassigned	00:37	00:02	00:34	93.34%	00:31	86.13%
4686	Unassigned	30:37	20:45	09:53	32.26%	09:11	30.01%
4687	Unassigned	01:19	00:41	00:38	47.91%	00:33	41.23%
4731	Unassigned	01:41	00:59	00:42	41.55%	00:36	35.65%
5249	Unassigned	146:29	89:59	56:29	38.56%	48:39	33.21%
5257	Unassigned	52:47	30:40	22:06	41.89%	18:23	34.83%
5469	Unassigned	66:59	29:54	37:06	55.37%	35:39	53.22%
5472	Unassigned	81:13	43:49	37:24	46.06%	32:47	40.36%
5476	Unassigned	21:07	11:52	09:15	43.82%	08:26	39.92%
5479	Unassigned	104:08	68:54	35:14	33.83%	31:54	30.64%
5483	Unassigned	92:15	54:58	37:17	40.42%	34:03	36.9%
5484	Unassigned	93:55	51:00	42:55	45.69%	39:22	41.92%
5485	Unassigned	161:06	97:23	63:43	39.55%	60:04	37.29%
5[illegible]44	Unassigned	00:22	00:04	00:19	84.16%	00:19	84.16%

Total Operating Time(hh:mm)	Drive Time(hh:mm)	Total Idle Time(hh:mm)	Total Idle Percentage
37:50	23:13	14:37	38.63%
54:51	23:09	31:43	57.81%
00:37	00:02	00:34	93.34%
30:37	20:45	09:53	32.26%
01:19	00:41	00:38	47.91%
01:41	00:59	00:42	41.55%
146:29	89:59	56:29	38.56%

Prevention

- **Review consequences of idling:**
  - Waste of money and resources
  - Increases pollution
  - Creates public health hazard
  - Against the law
  - Excessive wear on equipment
- **Reminder that the public is watching**
- **Monitor Verizon Networkfleet telematics device reports for potential vehicle misuse, i.e. speeding, excessive idling, etc.…**