

## Warming up your engine? No need!

### Did you know?

Modern, electronic fuel-injected cars (most cars made since the 90s), do not need to warm up for 5 to 10 minutes unlike older cars with carburetors. Experts agree that you should warm up your car for **no more than 30 seconds** before driving in the winter! Driving your vehicle cuts warm-up time in half, and idling is harder on the engine than driving. Did you know that some states and cities even have laws making idling illegal? Minneapolis, Owatonna and St. Cloud are some of them.

### Why avoid idling?

Vehicle motors release particulate matter, dirt, nitrous oxides, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide into the air. These chemicals are linked to increased rates of cancer, heart and lung disease and asthma and are the major source of human-caused global warming. An idling car emits more pollutants than a moving car, so reducing unnecessary idling is an easy way we can all do something to improve air quality. Idling is one of the most important source of greenhouse gas. It is estimated that eliminating the unnecessary idling of personal vehicles would be the same as taking 5 million vehicles off the roads.

### Idling impacts summary

- Wastes gas and money
- Damages your vehicle
- Increases health issues
- Increases air pollution, which contributes to smog, acid rain and climate changes
  - o In 2015, it was estimated that personal vehicles generated around 30 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year just from idling



### Easy trick to apply?

- Turn off your engine when your vehicle is immobilized for 10 seconds or more (except in traffic)
- Don't warm up your vehicle for extended period of times before driving
- Dress up warm and enjoy the winter!

### For more information:

- <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/warming-your-engine-no-need>
- [https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling\\_personal\\_vehicles.pdf](https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling_personal_vehicles.pdf)