

The Legislation

Vehicle idling is an offence against the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002. The law states that it is an offence to idle your engine unnecessarily when stationary. If you fail to turn your engine off after being spoken to you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £20.

The legislation covers all vehicles on public roads including buses, taxis and private cars. It does NOT apply to vehicles moving slowly due to road works or congestion; vehicles stopped at traffic lights; vehicles under test or repair; or defrosting a windscreen.

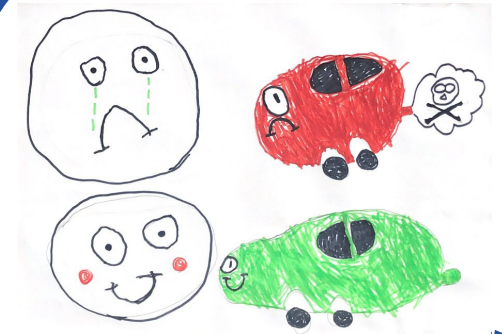


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Stop Being Idle!



Idling Vehicles Contribute to Air Pollution!



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Did you know it is against the law, on a public highway, to run your engine unnecessarily while your vehicle is stationary? It will also pollute the environment.



Reasons NOT to be idle

- By turning off your engine you improve air quality, reduce fuel costs and comply with the law.
- Reducing air pollutants can help cut heart disease, reduce lung cancer and prevent asthma attacks.
- Pollution affects everyone and children are the closest to exhaust fumes.

What can YOU do?

- Don't use the car unless you have to. It is healthier to cycle or walk, plus you'll save money.
- Switch off your engine if you are parked for more than 10 seconds. It uses less fuel than leaving the engine running.
- Don't idle while waiting – whether it's outside a school, in a car park, at the shop or anywhere else!
- Turn your engine off while sitting in your car waiting for someone. Most people switch their engines off when waiting to pick up passengers. This is smart because it saves money on fuel and helps stop air pollution building up.

Did someone once tell you...

Starting an engine can cause more pollution than idling.

FALSE: Turning off an engine and restarting it after a minute or two (or longer) causes less pollution than keeping the engine idling, and it uses less fuel.

The engine needs to stay on to keep the battery fully charged.

FALSE: Modern batteries need less engine running time.

When it's cold I need to keep my vehicle warm to warm up my engine.

FALSE: Your engine will stay warm for 30-60 minutes after switching the engine off.

Catalytic converters need the engine running to be kept hot to work properly

FALSE: An idling engine does not keep a catalytic converter warm. They retain their heat for about 25 minutes after the engine is switched off.