

Idling your car

The myths

Idling a car = running a vehicle's engine when it's not in motion

Over the years, many untruths have grown around the idea of idling your car. Many of these are hangovers from years ago when car engines were not as efficient as they are today.

Some people think that idling is a good way to warm up their engine. Or that letting their car idle consumes less fuel than turning it off and starting it up again.

However, these are myths, and modern engines *never* need to idle.

Here are more idling myths and facts, that could help reduce your emissions and *save money!*

Myth 1: Idling is good for your engine

FACT: Too much idling can damage your vehicle. Engines don't operate at peak temperature when the engine is switched on and the car is stationary, as fuel is only partially burned. This leads to fuel residue build up, which hurts engine parts and reduces gas mileage.

Myth 2: Starting and stopping my engine frequently will cause more pollution than just letting it run.

FACT: Actually, turning off an engine and then restarting after a minute will cause less pollution.

Myth 3: Letting a car idle on a cold day is a good way to warm it up

FACT: The best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it. Even modern diesel engines don't need more than a few minutes to warm up in cold weather.

Myth 4: Idling doesn't waste much fuel

FACT: Idling for an hour can waste half a gallon or more of fuel. If you add up a year's worth of sitting stationary with your engine turned on, you could save a significant amount of money.

Myth 5: If it's cold outside I need to keep my engine running for it to stay warm.

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