

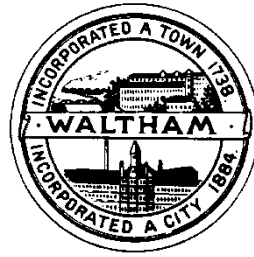
# **MASSACHUSETTS IDLING LAW!!!**

Massachusetts General Laws,  
Chapter 90, Section 16A, states  
that:

“No person shall cause, suffer,  
allow, or permit the unnecessary  
operation of the engine of a mo-  
tor vehicle while said vehicle is  
stopped for a foreseeable period  
in excess of five minutes.”

This means that if you expect to  
be stopped for more than five  
minutes, you must turn off your  
engine or risk getting a ticket  
with fines up to \$100 for the  
first offence and up to \$500 for  
each subsequent offense.

## **The “Idling Reduction” Campaign in Waltham**



The City of Waltham  
Healthy Waltham  
Waltham Partnership for Youth, Inc.  
Waltham Public Schools

For more information,  
contact the  
Recycling Department  
119 School Street  
Waltham, Ma 02451  
781-314-3390

Waltham Recycling Department

A DIVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

# **Reduce Idling in Waltham**



**TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE AND  
PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!!**

**SAVE THE AIR,  
YOUR HEALTH,  
& YOUR MONEY**

## Is all engine idling prohibited?

No. While the law does prohibit unnecessary idling, it also recognizes that there are times when idling is simply unavoidable.

### School Bus Idling:

- The initial warming period for a school bus is 15-20 minutes. Subsequently throughout the day, buses warm up in about 30 seconds, unless it is extremely cold.
- Buses must run engines to operate flashing lights, defrost windshields or operate a wheelchair lift.

## IDLING MYTHS

**MYTH #1:** *“The engine should be warmed up for long periods prior to driving.”*

**REALITY:** Idling is not an effective way to warm up your engine, even in cold weather. With today’s modern engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before starting to drive.

**MYTH #2:** *“Idling is good for the engine.”*

**REALITY:** Excessive idling can actually damage engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and the exhaust system.

**MYTH #3:** *“Shutting off and restarting the vehicle when it’s stopped is bad for the engine and uses more gasoline than if you leave it running.”*

**REALITY:** Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components. 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.

## IDLING FACTS

### **FACT #1: IDLING AFFECTS CHILDREN MORE THAN ADULTS.**

Children are more vulnerable to health problems such as asthma and other respiratory illnesses because they breathe faster, inhale more air per pound of body weight than adults, and are still growing. Exhaust particles, smaller than human hairs, enter the lungs and stay there.

### **FACT #2: IDLING WASTES FUEL AND MONEY.**

Every minute of idling costs you a fraction of a gallon of wasted fuel. Keep in mind that every gallon of gasoline produces 20.4 pounds of carbon dioxide.

### **FACT #3: IDLING CONTRIBUTES TO GLOBAL WARMING.**

Vehicle idling can have a powerful effect on the outdoor air quality at the local and community level.

### **FACT #4: IDLING AFFECTS AIR QUALITY AND YOUR HEALTH.**

Diesel and gasoline exhausts contain more than 40 hazardous pollutants. Idling your vehicle with the air conditioner on, can increase emissions by 13 percent.

## DO YOUR PART

**TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE WHEN YOU ARE WAITING FOR LONGER THAN 10 SECONDS.**

**KEEP YOUR CAR WELL MAINTAINED TO INCREASE GAS MILEAGE AND DECREASE EMISSION.**

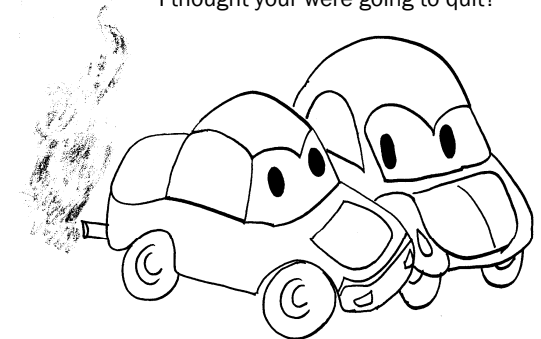
**REDUCE VEHICLE WARM-UP IDLING TO 30 SECONDS, EVEN IN THE COLD WEATHER.**

**AVOID USING A REMOTE STARTER.**

**TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, WALK, JOG, OR RIDE A BIKE INSTEAD OF DRIVING.**

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.**

I thought you were going to quit?



Sarah