



## Do Your Part

These three simple steps  
reduce unnecessary idling.

- 1. Turn your engine off.** Whether you're picking up your child from school or using the ATM, turn off your engine if you're stopped for longer than ten seconds.
- 2. Reduce warm-up idling.** Experts agree modern engines require only a short idle period after engine start—even in very cold temperatures. Driving slowly for the first mile or two is the best way for the car to warm up. Long idling periods can harm your engine and waste gas.
- 3. Spread the word.** Most people idle out of habit. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to help protect children's health, the environment, and save money by turning off their vehicles.

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## Turn Your Key – Be Idle Free

**To Protect Health.** Breathing exhaust isn't good for anyone, but it's especially bad for kids: their lungs are still developing, they breathe more air, and they breathe faster than adults. Car exhaust causes chronic asthma, can trigger asthma attacks, and has been linked to respiratory diseases, heart disease, and cancer.

**To Save Money.** Idling a compact car for ten minutes each day wastes more than 30 gallons of gasoline each year. Besides wasting gas, idling can also damage spark plugs, cylinders, and exhaust systems.

**To Improve Our Environment.** Idling a compact car for ten minutes per day can emit as many as 50 pounds of harmful air pollutants and more than 500 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Help to stop climate change, acid rain, and smog by turning off your engine.

**To Be Smart.** Idling longer than 10 seconds uses more gas than restarting your engine.

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*Michigan Motor-Smart: To improve air quality and decrease fossil fuel consumption through reduction of unnecessary idling and other smart driving practices.*  
[www.motor-smart.org](http://www.motor-smart.org)

*Michigan Motor-Smart Partners include:  
Clean Energy Coalition, Clean Water Action, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality - Air Quality Division, The City of Ann Arbor, The Ecology Center, Washtenaw Intermediate School District, and Washtenaw County Environmental Health. 2013*

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