

Environmental Programs

Wood Smoke and Vehicle Exhaust... What can YOU do to Clear the Air?

30/30/-30

Turn off your engine.....

If you stop for more than 30 seconds, except in traffic, turn off your engine!

More than 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel and produces more CO₂ than turning off your engine and restarting it. As a more practical guideline, considering fuel savings, overall emissions and possible wear on the starter and the battery, **turn off your engine if you are stopping for 30 seconds or more.** *Make it a habit to turn off your engine when you are parked.*

In the 30 seconds it takes to scrape your windows, your vehicle engine will be warm enough to drive.

Even at temperatures as cold as -30°C, modern vehicles need a maximum of 30 seconds of idle at start up. The best way to warm your vehicle is to drive it the first 5 km slowly. *At temperatures below -30°C, warm the engine for a maximum of 3 minutes.*

Turning off your engine when parked.....

Reduces emissions that contribute to air pollution and climate change.

Turning off your engine when parked

Saves you money and protects your vehicle's engine.

If you do idle your vehicle because you believe that it helps to warm up the engine and cut down on wear, consider the following:

If you idle for more than 30 seconds (except on really, really cold days when the oil is really thick), you may be doing more harm than good to your engine.

Why? An idling engine isn't operating at its peak temperature, which means that fuel doesn't undergo complete combustion. This leaves fuel residues that can condense on cylinder walls, where they can contaminate oil and damage parts of the engine.

Also, idling warms only the engine – not the wheel bearings, steering, suspension, transmission or tires. These parts also need to be warmed up, and the only way to do that is to drive the vehicle.

- Having a block heater, oil pan heater and a battery blanket ensures that the fluids in your vehicle are ready to go when you are.

Clear The Air

- Avoid the drive-thru. Instead of idling in line for several minutes, save gas and pollute less by going inside for your order.
- Avoid using a remote car starter during warmer weather (above -10°C).
- Walk, cycle, carpool or ride the bus. You've heard it before so you know all the reasons why it's good for you and the environment!
- An idling engine delivers zero miles to the gallon.

Cleaner wood burning practices.....

Burn the right wood the right way and it will save you time, money and will reduce the amount of harmful contaminants you might otherwise contribute to the air around your home.

- Preheat your chimney before starting a full fire by using a small kindling fire. This allows for better air circulation and therefore better combustion.
- Burn only seasoned, dry, split wood. To properly season wood, it should be cut, split and stacked in a covered area for about six months (including the summer months) before burning.
- Never burn green, wet, treated or painted wood, garbage, plastic, cardboard or glossy or bleached paper. Doing so releases poisons.
- Remember that fire needs oxygen. A clean and efficient burn requires ample air flow, so don't overload your stove and don't damp it down too much. Smoldering fires produce more pollutants because the wood is not being combusted completely.
- Running a high fire for 10 to 15 minutes after each refueling will help the wood burn better and will produce more heat for the amount of wood you use.
- Gradually reduce the air supply after starting or feeding a fire. A sudden reduction can make the fire smolder (resulting in a lot of pollution) until it recovers.
- Check the chimney for creosote build-up. A build-up of creosote might mean that your fires are not as efficient as they should be. While you're up there, clean the chimney to prevent a chimney fire.

The single most important thing you can do to reduce pollution from your woodstove is to install an efficient woodstove.

- Check that it meets current standards set by the Canadian Standards Association or the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- EPA- approved woodstoves employ some simple technologies that allow smoke to be combusted prior to leaving through the chimney, resulting in a reduction of up to **98%** of the pollutants that come from your stove and an increase in efficiency of up to **38%**. That's up to 38% less cutting, bucking, hauling, stacking and splitting or 38% less that you pay for wood!
- Replace your existing woodstove that meets CSA or US EPA standards, you may qualify for a grant from the Natural Resources Canada Office of Energy Efficiency. For more information, check out the links below.

