

# Idle Free Schools

## Why Not Idle?

Car exhaust contains **air toxics**, which are known to cause cancer, respiratory effects, reproductive effects, birth defects or other serious health effects.



Because of their developing lungs and higher breathing rates, **children are more susceptible** to air pollution.

*If many vehicles are idling at once, for example in school pick up/drop off areas, a “hot spot” of exhaust pollution can be created.*

Monitoring at schools has shown **elevated levels of air toxics** during the afternoon hour coinciding with parents picking up their children.

## Idling Facts



The chemicals from exhaust are harmful and can make **asthma** worse.

*Most people waste 1-2 entire tankfuls of gas every year by idling.*

Ford Motor Company says: “Avoid idling more than 30 seconds because excessive idling can actually **damage your engine.**”

*Idling more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.*

Manufacturers assure that frequent restarting won't harm an engine.

## What can you do?

If you are going to wait more than 10 seconds, turn your vehicle off.

It's as **simple** as that.

*Pledge to not idle unnecessarily anyplace, anytime.*



Reducing idling at schools can **reduce children's exposure** to toxic vehicle exhaust.

For more information:  
visit

[www.epa.gov/region8/  
air/idlefreeschools.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region8/air/idlefreeschools.htm)

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**Turn the Key,  
Be Idle Free!!**