

IDLING MYTHS

Myth #1: The engine should be warmed up several minutes before driving.

Reality: Idling is not an effective way to warm up your vehicle. The best way is to simply drive, while avoiding rapid acceleration and high speeds for 3-5 miles. Today's engines need to idle only 30 seconds prior to driving — even in winter.

Myth #2: Idling is good for your engine.

Reality: Excessive idling can actually damage your engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs and exhaust systems. Fuel is only partially combusted when idling because the engine does not operate at peak temperature. This leads to the buildup of fuel residues on cylinder walls that can damage engine components and lower mileage.

Myth #3: Shutting down and restarting your car is hard on the engine, and uses more gas than if you leave it running.

Reality: Frequent restarting has little impact on your battery and the starter motor. Component wear caused by restarting the engine is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving, money that will be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling. The bottom line: more than ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

www.consumerenergycenter.org/myths/idling.html

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