

It's BAD for
our children's
health

Thank you for not idling

It's BAD
for our
environment

It's the law

WHAT IS THE ANTI-IDLING LAW?

Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) chapter 90, section 16A and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection exhausts emissions regulation (310 CMR 7.11(1)(b)) both prohibit unnecessary vehicle idling by stating that the engine must be shut down if the vehicle will be stopped for more than five minutes. To provide additional protection for children, M.G.L. chapter 90, section 16B further restricts unnecessary idling within 100 feet of school grounds.



Why is there an anti-idling law?

There is already too much pollution in the air. Massachusetts consistently has days when air pollution exceeds ozone standards. Children are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution.

What are a few examples of unnecessary idling?

- Around schools, leaving the vehicle running while waiting for your child, except on particularly hot (above 80°F) and cold (less than 35°F) days when you may run the engine for up to 1 minute in any 15-minute period to heat or cool the interior of your vehicle. (540 CMR 27.00)
- Leaving the vehicle running while unattended to let the heater warm it or the air conditioner cool it for extended periods of time, including starting the car before you head out for the day.

Did you know?

- Air pollution, like exhaust fumes from vehicles, is linked to some increases in asthma, allergies, heart and lung disease, and even cancer.
- Vehicle emissions are one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

What can I do?

Make sure you are not a violator. Penalties can range from **\$100 to \$500**. If you are going to be stopped for more than 60 seconds, turn your engine off (except in traffic). Spread the word about the anti-idling laws.

Also see Newton School Committee Policy EEAJ: Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds. Note that School Buses may run their engines for circumstances involving safety, such as operating their stop arm/sign and flashing lights.

Brought to you by the Newton Police Department, Newton Health and Human Services, Newton Public Schools, Newton School Committee, Newton Office of Sustainability, Newton Safe Routes to School, and Green Newton School Connections.