



Idling and Health - fact sheet

Respiratory Health - Asthma*

- In Johnson County, one in every ten children under the age of 18 has asthma.
- Asthma related illnesses result in 14 million missed school days per year nationwide.
- The gases and small particles emitted from cars, trucks and buses are known to trigger asthma.

Respiratory Health - Ozone*

- Nearly half of all air pollution in Johnson County that leads to ground-level ozone comes from vehicle emissions.
- Ground-level ozone can cause irritation to the lungs, coughing, shortness of breath, scarring in the lungs and aggravation of chronic lung diseases such as asthma.
- Children are at the highest risk of exposure to air pollution because they breathe faster than adults and take in more air per pound of body weight.

*Sources: American Lung Association and Environmental Protection Agency

The Johnson County Environmental Department strongly urges you to turn off your engine when waiting to pick up children from school. Vehicle idling wastes fuel, pollutes the air and is a health concern for children and drivers. Please help make your school an idle-free zone.



Alternatives to Idling:

1. Walk or bike to and from school with your children.
2. Turn off your engine when you arrive until you are ready to exit. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather.
3. Park and walk to meet your children near the entrance instead of idling in line.

Idling Facts

- Idling = Zero Miles per Gallon!
- Idling for more than 30 seconds uses more fuel than shutting off and restarting your vehicle.
- Turning your engine on and off has little impact on the wear and tear of your car.
- Modern engines do not need to idle for more than 30 seconds in order to warm up. The best way to warm the engine in the cold is to drive.

Pollution Facts

Your school can make a difference! In one year, if 100 cars each reduce idling for 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week in the pickup/drop off lanes, air pollution would decrease by the following:

- 4,400 lbs of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide
- 360 lbs of toxic carbon monoxide
- 100 lbs of ozone forming pollutants, including nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC)

Share the Air!
Healthy Air = Happy Lungs

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