



Reduce Unnecessary Idling

Three good reasons to reduce excessive diesel idling in your operations and at your workplace.

1. Save money on fuel

- If the engine will be idling for more than 30 seconds, you will generally save more fuel if you stop the engine and restart. (Source: US Environmental Protection Agency)
- An hour of idling can consume more than a gallon of diesel fuel depending on the vehicle's year and model (and idling can account for up to 50% of total trip time).
- Letting an engine idle causes twice the wear on internal parts compared to driving at highway speeds, increasing maintenance costs and shortening engine life. Prolonged idling can reduce the operating life of engine oil by 75%.

2. Reduce your employees' exposure to harmful emissions

- Diesel exhaust poses a health risk to anyone within close proximity, including drivers, employees and others that are nearby. Diesel exhaust concentrates at ground level around loading docks and can enter your building through air intakes, doors and windows.
- Diesel exhaust contains 40 substances that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists as hazardous air pollutants. Fifteen of these pollutants are considered probable or known carcinogens. Numerous scientific studies have shown that exposure to the pollution from diesel exhaust increases the risk of respiratory illness and cancer.

3. Improve air quality

- In Georgia, the two most significant pollutants that threaten human health are fine particulate matter (PM) and ground level ozone. Overall, 27 Georgia counties violate standards for ground level ozone or PM and air quality standards are getting tougher.
- Reducing unnecessary idling can be a cost-effective strategy to improve air quality. An average 1980s – 2001 model year heavy-duty diesel emits:
 - 0.32lbs/hr of NO_x emissions
 - 18.1 lbs/hr of CO₂
 - 0.14 ounces/hr of PM emissions
 - and consumes 0.82 gal/hr of diesel fuel
- The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is currently working on a No-Idle Rule for heavy duty diesel engines in Georgia that could be effective as early as May 2009

There are viable alternatives to reduce unnecessary idling. The Clean Air Campaign can help you create an effective diesel engine idling reduction program – at no cost.

- The Clean Air Campaign is developing innovative No-Idling programs, best practices and policies for Georgia employers. These include signage, educational and training materials and other strategies for employers using heavy-duty fleets, and owners or managers of facilities where trucks idle.
- We provide one-on-one consulting at no cost to help you develop an effective idling reduction program that fits the needs of your operations, fleet and company culture.