Useful Tips

More Ways to help keep the District's air clean:

- Adjust air-fuel ratio.
- Clean or replace air filter.
- Adjust or replace turbocharger.
- Adjust or replace throttle delay and/or puff limiter.
- Adjust governor, fuel rack and injector timing to manufacturer's specifications.
- Clean or replace injector nozzles.
- Reset valve timing.
- Replace fuel pump.
- Invest in an Alternative Power Unit (APU) for your vehicle.

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT *green forward*

District Department of the Environment
Air Quality Division
1200 First Street, NE, 5th Floor
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STOP ENGINE IDLING IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Do your part for clean air - It's your health, it's the law!

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT *green forward*

IDLING FOR MORE THAN 3 MINUTES IS AGAINST THE LAW.

Protect our air.

- Vehicle exhaust is the single largest source of air pollution in the District.
- Engine idling pollutes the atmosphere, which affects the health of people and the environment.
- Small particulates from diesel engines can lodge in the lungs, aggravating asthma and causing lung damage.
- Pollutants from vehicles contribute to acid rain, ozone formation, and global climate change.

Breathe easier.

- Sitting in an idling vehicle exposes drivers and pedestrians to more pollution than when driving the vehicle.
- You can help protect the residents and visitors of the nations capital.

Save money.

- Reduce your fuel cost: if you idle for more than 30 seconds, you're using more fuel than restarting your engine.
- Reduce engine wear: idling causes excess wear and can shorten the life of your engine.
- **Avoid fines: tickets for violations start at $500 and double for subsequent violations, up to $4,000.**

Learn the law.

- 20 DCMR § 900.1 states:

  The engine of a gasoline or diesel powered motor vehicle, the engine of a public vehicle for hire, including buses with a seating capacity of twelve (12) or more persons, on public or private space **shall not idle for more than three (3) minutes** while the motor vehicle is parked, stopped, or standing, including for the purpose of operating air conditioning equipment in those vehicles.

Know the exceptions.

You may:

- Idle non-commercial private passenger vehicles. It is still best not to do so any more than absolutely necessary.
- Idle to operate power take-off equipment, such as dumping beds, cement mixers, refrigeration systems, content delivery, winches or shredders.
- Idle for up to five (5) minutes when the temperature is at or below freezing (32 degrees F).