



A friendly reminder...

Peterborough has an Idling Control By-Law that limits vehicle idling to two minutes.

5 Reasons to Reduce Vehicle Engine Idling

Save Money

Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine. Every 10 minutes of idling costs you about a fifth of a litre in waste fuel.

Help the Environment

Motor vehicle emissions create smog, acid rain, climate change and general air pollution. 50% of personal greenhouse gas emissions are from transportation.

Better for Your Health

The health effects of vehicle emissions are serious and diverse. They include worsened asthma and chronic cardio-respiratory illnesses. Children and seniors are more at risk. Air pollution contributes to 80 premature deaths in Peterborough each year.



Reduce Maintenance Costs

An idling engine delivers zero miles to the gallon. Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and starter. Excessive idling can be hard on your engine because it isn't working at peak operating temperature. Fuel doesn't undergo complete combustion, leaving spark plugs dirty and contaminating engine oil.

It's Against the Law

As of November 1, 2008, it is illegal to idle a vehicle for more than 2 minutes in the City of Peterborough. The fine is \$30. See other side for details.



City of
Peterborough

City of Peterborough Idling Control By-Law

What You Need to Know

What is the Idling Control By-law?

The Idling Control By-law came into effect on November 1, 2008. The by-law controls how long a motor vehicle is permitted to idle. Questions and answers to common questions are provided below. The complete by-law is on the City webpage at www.peterborough.ca.

Why have a by-law?

The goal of the by-law is to reduce vehicle emissions, specifically those created by unnecessary engine idling. Vehicle emissions contribute to local air pollution, health problems and climate change.

What is the maximum time permitted for idling under the by-law?

“2 minutes”

What is the recommended time for idling?

Warm-up

The best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it at a moderate speed after 30 seconds, even on the coldest of winter days. As an added bonus, you save fuel because an efficient operating temperature is reached twice as fast as when the vehicle is stationary.

Waiting

If you are stopped for more than 10 seconds, turn off your engine. Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine.

What about clearing my windshield in winter?

Clear your windshield before driving. As much as possible, use a brush and scraper to remove ice and snow. Use a block heater when the temperature is below freezing to reduce fuel use (by about 10%), emissions and provide heat for your defroster faster.

What if it is very hot or cold outside?

If you are waiting, turn off your engine and seek more moderate temperatures in a nearby building, or in the shade. In hot, sunny conditions, seek a shady parking area. Do not stay in an idling vehicle due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and high pollution levels of toxic substances (measured to be 10x higher than outside). People (e.g. children, elderly) in your care should never be left unattended in an idling vehicle.