# Idling Quiz

## Idling reduces the life of your engine oil. True or False

**True:** Idling does contribute to the breakdown of the oil. Which is why vehicles that idle a lot, like 18-wheelers, taxis and police cars, get their oil changed more frequently than your car does. Your owner's manual probably lists two different oil-change intervals. There's 'normal' duty and 'severe' duty which is defined as operation in extremely hot or cold weather, towing or using the vehicle like a taxi with long idling times. The severe-duty oil change is more frequent, to account for that extra wear and tear.

## Idling doesn't use much gas. True or False

**True and False:** Modern, fuel-injected engines with computerized engine management, monitors the fuel so that excess fuel isn't pouring into the cylinders like it would with old fashioned carburetors. However, the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority says that the average car uses about 0.15 gallons of fuel per hour of idling. At $3.00 per gallon/ that's about 45 cents worth of gas for every hour you idle your car. If you continue to do that every day for 250 days a year (approximately every working day), that's $112.50 per year. It adds up!

## I need to leave the engine running to keep my mother (husband, wife, dog, etc.) comfortable while I run into the store. True or False

**False:** If you leave your electrical system running, the fan blower will be able to supply enough residual hot or cool air to keep the car a comfortable temperature while you are in the store. Even in five minutes – which is much longer than the average person typically idles – the temperature inside the car or cab won't change more than a few degrees.

## I'll use more gas and put more wear on my car by constantly turning it off and on at every short stop. True or False

**False:** There's no truth to the myth that you use more gas starting it than by letting it run. If you're sitting and waiting for someone else, you can listen to your car radio or have the blower bringing in a comfortable temperature of air with the key in the accessory position.

One of the ways hybrid vehicles save fuel is by automatically turning off the engine whenever the car comes to a complete stop. It's an easy and relatively inexpensive way to cut down on our dependence on foreign oil, the pollution of our atmosphere and helps our streets and parking lots smell a lot better.

But you can improve the situation without buying a hybrid and its new technology just by remembering to turn off your car when you're stopped for a minute or more. Future generations – and the people all around you – will thank you.

**Answers to these quiz questions were built from Cartalk.com hosts Click and Clack.*