



OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Post-Holiday Shopping?

If you enjoy the after-holiday sales, be on the lookout for strings of LED lights for next year's tree. Though more costly initially, they quickly pay for themselves in energy savings and longevity. LED (light emitting diode) bulbs use only 15% of the energy of incandescent lights and do not release heat, a safer alternative. The bulbs outlive the traditional option, reducing maintenance hassles.

Wrapping paper deals can be found this time of year as well; opt for recycled-content papers or do away with the superfluous wrap and begin collecting your children's artwork to adorn next Christmas' gifts.

Some Utility Bill Envelopes Available

As promised last month, we are reducing costs by no longer printing, inserting and mailing return envelopes. We do, however, have a small supply which we are happy to share with you for your utility payment. Stop by City Hall and ask for some.

What To Do with Holiday Boxes and Trees

After the holiday season, there are many ways to dispose of waste responsibly. Corrugated cardboard boxes, collapsed, can be placed in the cardboard recycling bins on the north edge of the River Street Park & Ride lot or taken to Ohio Gulch Transfer Station. (Please remember NO pizza boxes!) Paperboard (non-corrugated cardboard) is considered mixed paper and is recyclable in the blue curbside bin with other paper products on your trash day. Christmas trees are composted and are gladly accepted at the Ohio Gulch Transfer Station Monday through Saturday 8-5. There is NO Hailey drop-off location.



Idling Myths

Myth #1: *The engine should be warmed up before driving.* **Reality:** Idling is not an effective way to warm up your vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive the vehicle. With today's modern engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before driving away.

Myth #2: *Idling is good for your engine.* **Reality:** Excessive idling can actually damage your engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems. Fuel is only partially combusted when idling because an engine does not operate at its peak temperature. This leads to the build up of fuel residues on cylinder walls that can damage engine components and increase fuel consumption.

Myth #3: *Shutting off and restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine and uses more gas than if you leave it running.* **Reality:** Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and the starter motor. Component wear caused by restarting the engine is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving, money that will likely be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling. The bottom line is that more than ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine. (ConsumerEnergyCenter.org)

Overall, idling in the U.S. burns 2.9 billion gallons of gas a year, worth around \$78.2 billion, according to a recent report from Texas A&M. Please honor the many "no idling zones" around schools, churches and other locations and save yourself some money!