



Office of Children's
Environmental Health



Did You Know?

- ◆ Each of us takes approximately 20,000 breaths each day.
- ◆ The average American breathes 3,400 gallon of air a day.
- ◆ Children breathe 50 percent more air per pound than adults.
- ◆ Vehicle exhaust is the one of the major contributors to toxic air pollution in Arizona.
- ◆ Idling consumes ½ gallon to one gallon of fuel per hour and wastes more fuel than turning your engine off and on.
- ◆ Idling your vehicle with the air conditioning running can increase emissions by about 13 percent.
- ◆ Diesel exhaust contains microscopic soot, a particle that is about 200 times smaller than the period at the end of this sentence.
- ◆ Diesel exhaust contains both very small particles and 40 chemicals that are classified as “hazardous air pollutants” under the Clean Air Act.
- ◆ Idling buses tend to accumulate diesel exhaust, which may be retained during the ride depending upon bus ventilation rates.
- ◆ It is more efficient to turn off most warmed-up vehicles than to idle for more then 30 seconds.
- ◆ A single vehicle dropping off and picking up kids at one school puts three pounds of pollution into the air per month.
- ◆ Carbon monoxide (a component of exhaust) reduces the ability of blood to bring oxygen to body cells and tissues.
- ◆ Children’s asthma symptoms increase as a result of vehicle exhaust. Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15.
- ◆ Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of most school absences.
- ◆ Exposure to vehicle exhaust increases the risk of death from heart and lung disease and lung cancer.
- ◆ For every 2 minutes a car is idling it uses about the same amount of fuel it takes to go about one mile.
- ◆ Idling for 10 seconds uses the same amount of gas as restarting your car.



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