

IDLE REDUCTION AND THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY



IDLING WASTES MONEY, IMPACTS HEALTH AND AFFECTS THE ENVIRONMENT. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY TO RECOGNIZE IDLING'S IMPACT ON MARYLAND COMMUNITIES.



WHAT IS IDLING?

Idling is when a vehicle is left running unnecessarily while stopped. It occurs when an engine is on, but the vehicle is not otherwise in use or operation.

HOW LONG IS IT OK TO IDLE?

In Maryland, drivers are not legally allowed to idle longer than five minutes. However, engines can benefit from being turned off as soon as possible. And since idling emits pollutants that are harmful to lungs, the less drivers idle, the better.

IS IDLING SAFE IF NO ONE IS NEAR THE VEHICLE?

Idling puts drivers at risk by exposing their cabin to a much higher concentration of pollutants than when their vehicle is in motion. It also impacts air quality and the environment.

CAN MY DRIVERS REALLY MAKE THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE?

Yes! When it comes to idling, five minutes matter. Many drivers aren't even aware of how much they idle. Small changes through the course of their day can add up to make a big difference. Idle reduction can also help companies save money on fuel and maintenance while extending the life span of their fleet.

WHAT ABOUT WHILE LOADING OR UNLOADING CARGO OR PASSENGERS?

There's no benefit to leaving an engine running during any activity that doesn't require it to be on. Drivers should turn engines off to avoid exposing lungs to ground-level exhaust fumes during these activities.

HOW CAN WE GET STARTED?

Establish a policy on idling that encourages drivers to get in and get going when they are on the clock. Track idling behavior and appoint tracking coaches to help implement idle-reduction policies. Set idle-reduction goals and develop incentive programs that encourage participation.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP?

Visit mde.maryland.gov/idlefreeMD to access material that can be posted on social media and in common areas of your place of business. Research grant opportunities for idle-reduction upgrades such as alternative power units, auto-shutoffs, and bunk heaters. Take the pledge to be Idle Free and show Maryland communities that your company is committed to idle reduction.



mde.maryland.gov/idlefreeMD

PLEDGE TO BE IDLE FREE.

For more information, contact mde.idlefreemd@maryland.gov