

Salt Lake City - Anti Idling Ordinance
Frequently Asked Questions

(1) What is the purpose of this ordinance?

To protect public health and promote the prosperity, good order, comfort and convenience of the city and its inhabitants by reducing unnecessary vehicle emissions.

(2) What are the main reasons to eliminate unnecessary idling?

- a. Idling near schools and in other areas has been shown to impact the air quality in the vicinity, exposing children and other people to pollution that can cause health problems such as asthma.
- b. Idling contributes to the overall air quality issues in the valley.
- c. Idling gets you nowhere - idling vehicles get 0 mpg, literally burning money without any benefit.

(3) How long can I idle under the new ordinance?

Vehicles idling over 2 minutes would be subject to fines under the ordinance UNLESS an exception applies (See FAQ #5).

(4) Does this mean I have to turn off my vehicle at long traffic lights?

No, vehicles stopped at an official traffic signal or control device are not subject to the idling ordinance.

(5) What are the proposed fines?

1. First Offense – Warning (no fine)
2. Second Offense within 24 months of first offense – Fine of \$160*
3. Third + Offenses within 24 months of first offense – Fine of \$210*

***Note –**

- a. Penalties paid within 10 days are reduced by \$110
- b. Penalties paid within 20 days are reduced by \$70
- c. Penalties paid within 30 days are reduced by \$40

(6) Are there any exemptions to the idling ordinance?

Yes, the following exceptions apply –

- A. Idling while stopped:
 1. for an official traffic control device;
 2. for an official traffic control signal;
 3. the direction of a police officer;
 4. at the direction of an air traffic controller;
 5. in accordance with regulatory authority;
- B. Idling as needed to operate defrosters and other equipment to ensure visibility;
- C. Idling as needed for emergency vehicles to operate equipment;
- D. Idling as needed to ascertain that a vehicle is in safe operating condition and equipped as required by all provisions of law, and that all equipment is in good working order, either as part of the daily vehicle inspection, or as otherwise needed;
- E. Idling as needed for testing, servicing, repairing, installation, maintenance or diagnostic purposes;

- F. Idling for the period recommended by the manufacturer to warm up or cool down a turbo-charged heavy-duty vehicle;
- G. Idling as needed to operate auxiliary equipment for which the vehicle was designed, other than transporting goods, such as: operating a transportation refrigeration unit (TRU), lift, crane, pump, drill, hoist, ready mixed equipment, except a heater or air conditioner;
- H. Idling as needed to operate a lift or other piece of equipment designed to ensure safe loading and unloading of goods or people;
- I. Idling to recharge a battery or other energy storage unit of a hybrid electric vehicle;
- J. Idling as need for vehicles that house K-9 or other service animals;
- K. Idling by on-duty police officers as necessary for the performance of their official duties.
- L. Idling as needed for vehicles for hire during active loading and unloading (10 minute maximum).

(7) Isn't it more costly to shut off and restart your vehicle frequently?

No, frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and the starter motor. A major study done on the costs of idling found that in order to balance the cost of starter maintenance with the benefits of idling reduction, turning off your vehicle after 30-45 seconds of idling was recommended. [Source.](#)

(8) Do other cities have regulations like this?

Yes, many other cities across the United States have implemented idling regulations. [List of idling regulations, fines and exemptions.](#)

More information on vehicle idling is available at [IdleFree.Utah.Gov.](#)