Idling is leaving your vehicle's engine running. Turn off your engine when parked, loading or waiting at the roadside as vehicle fumes can damage your health and the environment.

4,300 equivalent numbers of deaths caused each year from exposure to London’s air pollution. Don’t contribute.

9.9million drivers in London. The biggest exhaust fume contributors are:
- cars
- HGV's
- buses
- coaches
- LGV's
- taxis
- motorcycles

Does the engine need to stay on to keep the battery fully charged?
No. Modern batteries need less engine running time. Motorists rarely need to carry jump leads. The AA has advice on how to prolong battery life.

Play your part
Good times to turn your engine off include:
- Waiting to pick up passengers
- Picking up kids for the school run
- Loading and delivering goods or waiting at roadside

Over 1 minute?
Switch off if you will be stopped for more than one minute

When it’s cold I need to keep my vehicle and passengers warm or warm up my engine

Mind your Health
Switch off for you and your family’s health. Some of these health problems could be reduced by switching off your engine:

Asthma
Heart disease
Lung cancer

Don’t catalytic converters need to be hot to work properly?
Yes, but an idling engine does not keep a catalytic converter warm. They retain their heat for about 25 minutes after an engine is switched off anyway.

Is it better to idle the vehicle as turning the engine off and on wears it out?
No. Ignitions in modern cars have eliminated this problem. Idling dirties your engine with incomplete combustion increasing wear and tear. Maintaining your vehicle is important for preventing breakdowns and reducing air pollution.

Does starting an engine cause more pollution than idling?
No. Turning off an engine and restarting it after a minute or longer causes less pollution than keeping the engine idling and uses less fuel.

Does the engine need to stay on to keep the battery fully charged?

When it’s cold I need to keep my vehicle and passengers warm or warm up my engine

Low Emission Zone
Clean Air Fund
Asthma UK
Automobile Association
Quality Strategy

Find out more: