



Keeping your engine running; the fact & fiction

Fiction

If it's cold outside, I need to keep the engine running to keep the heater on.

Fact

If you switch the engine off when you park and keep the ignition on, the heater should stay warm for up to 30 minutes.

Fiction

If I'm parked on a yellow line, keeping my engine running means I won't get a fine.

Fact

Traffic Wardens can fine you if you are parked somewhere you shouldn't be. They can also issue you with a £40 fine if your engine is idling (switched on whilst you are waiting).

Fiction

But surely it is better to idle because stopping and starting will wear out the engine?

Fact

Sitting in your car with your engine running could cost you more than you think. Between 5% and 8% of fuel use occurs while idling. Based on the average annual fuel bill of £1600, this means you could be wasting more than £100 a year.

Fiction

Sitting in my car protects me from other people's car fumes.

Fact

The air quality inside the car could be up to 12 times worse than outside.

Walking and cycling is healthier, cheaper and better for air quality than driving and parking outside your school.