



newsletter

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Engine Idling Myths

Myth #1: The engine should be warmed up before driving. Reality: Idling is not an effective way to warm up your vehicle, even in cold weather. The best way to do this is to drive the vehicle. With today's modern engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling on winter days before driving away.

Myth #2: Idling is good for your engine. Reality: Excessive idling can actually damage your engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems. Fuel is only partially combusted when idling because an engine does not operate at its peak temperature. This leads to the build up of fuel residues on cylinder walls that can damage engine components and increase fuel consumption.

Myth #3: Shutting off and restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine and uses more gas than if you leave it running. Reality: Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and the starter motor. Component wear caused by restarting the engine is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving, money that will likely be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling. The bottom line is that more than ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine

<http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/myths/idling.html>

That's a Long Time

Climate change is "largely irreversible" for the next 1,000 years even if carbon dioxide emissions could be abruptly halted, according to a new study led by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The study's authors said there was "no going back" after the report showed that changes in surface temperature, rainfall and sea level are "largely irreversible for more than 1,000 years after CO2 emissions are completely stopped."

Read more at:



Ask the EnCe

Can I collect rainwater and use it to irrigate my landscaping?

Technically, you are not legally allowed to collect rainwater unless you own the water rights to your property. The current law, passed over 80 years ago, prohibits people from collecting rainwater because Utah regards all water in the state, whether it's above, below or on the ground, as public property. This law was enacted to protect the downstream water right's owners.

How do I know if I own a water right?

Generally, if you receive a bill for water from Salt Lake City, then you do not own a water right, and you are not allowed to collect the water.

Are they really going to give me a ticket?

Most likely you will not get a ticket unless you are a commercial business that is trying to collect water. Last year, Mark Miller got in trouble for trying to collect and use water for car washing.

Currently, there is law in the state legislature that will make it legal for residential homeowners to collect water. Representative Scott Jenkins decided "that his bill would limit the amount of rainwater that a resident could collect to a 2,500-gallon storage unit that a person could keep refilling throughout the year." (*Deseret News* 2008) If you support, or oppose, this bill contact your local legislator. You can also follow the progress of this bill (SB0128) online at <http://le.utah.gov/~2009/htmldoc/sbillhtm/sb0128.htm>.

