

## 10 Simple Steps to Improve Air Quality

### 1. Take mass transit, share a ride or carpool.

The average driver spends about 50 cents per mile to drive their personal vehicle, including ownership and maintenance. Even if you opt to take mass transit, share a ride or carpool just once or twice a week, you'll save money and you'll reduce traffic congestion and pollution.

Fewer vehicles on the road translates into fewer sources of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). A reduction in these ozone-forming components may result in an overall improvement of the local air quality.

### 2. Trip chain more often.

Chances are, you're already doing it – combining your errands into one trip. It helps you get things done and it helps reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.

### 3. Ride your bike.

Ride a bicycle or walk for short trips during morning hours when ozone levels are lower. Vehicles on the road create about 25 percent of all air pollution nationwide.

### 4. Take things in stride.

Walk or inline skate instead of driving! These modes of transportation are easy ways to get exercise and they're easy on the air.

### 5. Care for your car.

Regular maintenance, tune-ups, changing the oil and checking tire inflation can improve gas mileage, extend your car's life and increase its resale value. It can also reduce traffic congestion due to preventable breakdowns and it could reduce your car's emissions.

### 6. Get fuel when it's cool.

Refueling during cooler periods of the day or in the evening can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone. This practice will help reduce ozone on air alert days.



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## 7. Don't top off the tank.

It releases gas fumes into the air and cancels the benefits of the car's antipollution equipment. Topping off your tank is also dangerous because it can lead to spills, with gasoline either getting on your body, clothes or on the ground. So stopping short of a full tank is safer and it reduces pollution.

## 8. Telecommute.

Work at home if possible. You'll save time and money, plus reduce emissions and traffic congestion.

## 9. Know before you go.

If your area has a travel and transit information network, use it by calling, visiting the website, tuning into the local television station, or listening to traffic reports on your radio. You can also use your favorite map application on your smart phone to find the best route around traffic. Get travel and transit updates before you leave home and you won't get stuck in a traffic jam, which can lead to your car running/idling longer than necessary while getting you from point A to point B.

## 10. Avoid the drive-through and go inside.

Idling your vehicle for 10 seconds uses more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it. Every time you use a drive-through window, you waste gas and money and contribute to air pollution by idling your car. Do your part! Next time you are at a fast food restaurant, ATM, bank, or other location with a drive-through, try the walk-through instead.

Spread the word. If everyone took just a few of these simple, easy steps, it could make a big difference because ...

## It all adds up to cleaner air!

For information about air quality call DEQ's Air Quality Division at (405) 702-4100.

