

FACTS ABOUT AUTOMOBILE AIR POLLUTION WHICH EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

The problem:- Who is responsible?

Air pollution due to excessive and uncontrolled exhaust emissions from automobiles has reached alarming rate in any of the cities and towns of our state. The problem is more left in the city of Bangalore with a strong fleet of about 18 lakh vehicles plying on its roads. The emissions from industries has further worsened the situation. The exhaust emission release gases and compound such as Carbon Monoxide, Unburnt Hydrocarbons, Oxides of Nitrogen and Carbon particulars matter into the atmosphere, polluting the air you breathe. The body requires something like 23 kg of air a day to sustain its requirement for oxygen. Unintentionally of with ignorance we are polluting life sustaining resources.

How does it affect out health and well being?

The exhaust from diesel vehicles contain unburnt carbon particles and hydrocarbons. Together they cause irritation of eyes, impairs your vision, causes breathing problems and may even cause lung cancer in the long run. Petrol driven vehicles emit oxides of nitrogen, unburnt Hydrocarbons, lead particulates and Carbon Monoxide. Exposure to high concerfrtation of Nitrogen Oxides can be dangerous. Hydrocarbons are proven cancer causing compounds. Lead acts as an agent to cause liver and kidney damage, gastrointestinal damage, mental health effect in children and abnormalities in fertility and pregnancy. Worst of all its the Carbon Monoxide, which impairs the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood affecting whole of your body. At higher concentration it is lethal.

Statutory vehicular emission standards that you should maintain to control pollution

The central Motor Vehicles Rules- 1989 specifies the following standards:

Diesel Vehicles

The maximum smoke density should not exceed 65 Hatridge units on free acceleration

Petrol Vehicles

1. Idling Carbon Monoxide emission limit for all four wheeled vehicles shall not exceed 3% of volume.
2. Idling Carbon Monoxide limit for all two and three wheeled vehicles shall not exceed 4.5% by volume.

Failure to comply with these standards shall be punishable for the first offence with a fine of Rs. 1,000/- and any second or subsequent offences with a fine of Rs. 2,000/- Please note that in all the petrol bunk filter paper is made available free of cost to customers on demand, if they wish to satisfy themselves of the quantity of fuel (a drop of unadulterated petrol does not leave any stain on filter paper)

What can you do to control pollution from your vehicles?

As a motor vehicles owner, it is your responsibility to control vehicular pollution by better maintenance and regular servicing of vehicle. The following tips may please be followed to minimise pollution.

DO'S

1. Service your vehicles regularly
2. Give special attention to engine tuning, spark, plug and fuel injection systems.
3. Adjust the carburettor to deliver a cleaner air fuel mixture.
4. Periodically change the engine oil as recommended.

DONT'S

1. Minimise unnecessary idling of your engine.
2. Avoid needless acceleration and deceleration.
3. Do not overload the vehicle.
4. Do not loosely cap your fuel tank.

We will have the following advantages by controlling vehicular pollution

1. The level of pollutants in our cities will come down thereby reducing the instances of respiratory diseases in you and the community.
2. We not only save on our fuel bill, our country will save on precious foreign exchange.