This Week: Colder Climate Startup Idle

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Q: I operate in colder climates, so I'm forced to have more idle time in the morning from letting my truck warm up.

A: See the conditions below on how the ECM (Engine Control Module) recognizes Idle time. During startup on cold mornings, the idle naturally comes in higher than 750 rpm's. Once the engine warms to a normal operating temperature, the RPM's will lower. When that happens, the vehicle will begin counting idle time.

So yes, you can, and should, allow your vehicle some warm up time on those cold mornings. You will only register idle time if you do so for an excessive period of time, beyond the normal engine warming period.

Both of Idealease's engine manufacturers have complexities in their *idle time explanations*, but after extensively assessing each version, we found it comes down to a few basic necessary factors:

- 1. The engine is on.
- 2. No speed is detected.
- 3. RPMs are in normal idle range (generally defined as 750 or less).



Idealease Business Intelligence is committed to helping your team Elevate their performance. You will get a weekly Question of the Week email that will help explain different elements of the scorecard, offer tips to improve Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) or other motivational topics to keep your drivers striving for excellence behind the wheel. If you have a question or would like a topic covered, please email

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