Idaho Deparment of Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov



Vehicle Emissions Testing: Canyon County and Kuna

Why is vehicle emissions testing needed?

The Vehicle Emissions Testing Program in Canyon County and Kuna is designed to help address ozone air pollution in the Treasure Valley. Vehicles do not emit ozone, but they are a major source of the pollutants that react to form ozone. Vehicles that pass an emissions test are less likely to emit these harmful pollutants.



For More Information:
Call 208-461-1232 or log on to *www.idahovip.org*

Quick Facts about the Vehicle Emissions Testing Program in Canyon County and Kuna

- Gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles that are model year 1981 and newer but older than five years must be tested, unless they are exempt.
- Certain vehicles are exempt, including some classic automobiles and motor homes, motorized farm equipment, agricultural vehicles, electric and hybrid vehicles, and vehicles five years old or newer.
- Testing is required every other year. Motorists are notified of their testing month by mail, or you can check online at www.idahoVIP.org.
- An emissions test costs $14 per vehicle test, the fee is due at the time of testing. A motorist is allowed one free re-test, if completed within 30 days of the previous and at the same station.
- Testing is available at the conveniently located testing locations at small businesses throughout Canyon County and Kuna.
- Failure to obtain an emissions test can result in the vehicle's registration being revoked.

How are emissions tested?

Gasoline-powered vehicles are tested by one of two methods—two-speed idle (TSI) or on-board diagnostic (OBD)—depending on the age of the vehicle.

- The TSI method, used on model year 1981-1995 gas-powered vehicles, samples a vehicle's exhaust to see if it is above or below program standards.
- The OBD system, used on model year vehicles 1996 and newer, looks for codes triggered by broken or malfunctioning emissions control components.

Diesel-powered vehicles are inspected by a snap acceleration test that uses a smoke meter at the end of the exhaust pipe or the OBD system depending on the vehicle model year. Gas caps are also inspected for leaks. On model year 1995 and older gas-powered vehicles, gas caps are removed and tested to ensure they seal properly. On model year 1996 and newer vehicles, the OBD system automatically performs the test.







What else can I do to help protect air quality?

Air quality affects us all, so it is in everyone's best interest to take an active role in protecting it. Small actions by many add up to a big difference.

- **Drive less.** Ride the bus, carpool, walk, bike, combine errands, or use other forms of alternative transportation.
- **Turn off your vehicle** when you are sitting idle, such as when waiting in a drive-through.
- **Maintain your car** and keep your tires properly inflated.
- **Don't top off the gas tank.** Topping off allows harmful chemicals to escape into the air.
- **Avoid using gasoline-powered hand tools** and lawnmowers, especially on hot days.
- **Reduce burning.** Burning releases many types of pollutants into the air.
- **Convert from wood** to gas or electric heat, or get a clean-burning fireplace insert or woodstove.
- **Comply with air quality advisories** and burn bans.