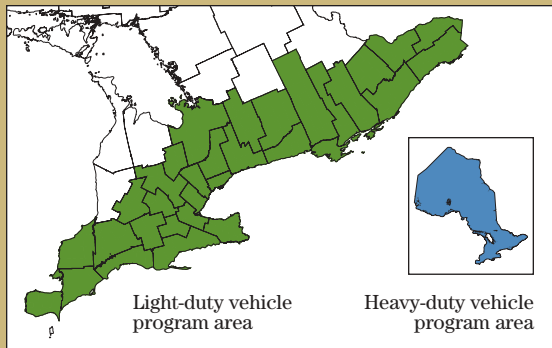


Drive Clean makes a difference

Ontario's *Drive Clean* program is reducing smog-causing pollutants from both light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles. The program is helping us make smart choices about the way we maintain and drive our vehicles. In fact, Natural Resources Canada estimates that a "poorly maintained vehicle can increase fuel consumption by up to 50 per cent, and toxic emissions by even more."

But more importantly, you will be doing the right thing for the air we breathe.

Program Areas



For more information on Ontario's *Drive Clean*, call:

1-888-758-2999

or visit

www.driveclean.com

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Ontario's *Drive Clean*

A mandatory, vehicle
emissions-testing program

Protecting our environment.



Ontario

Protecting our environment.



Ontario

Ontario's Drive Clean is reducing emissions of smog-causing pollutants as well as other chemicals, including greenhouse gases and air toxics that damage our health and our environment.

Drive Clean is one of the largest of the 36 vehicle emissions testing programs in North America. It is committed to continuous improvement, and currently has the strictest emissions-testing standards for large diesel trucks and buses in North America.

Since vehicles are our largest domestic source of smog-causing pollutants, Drive Clean is an important part of Ontario's Clean Air Action Plan. Vehicle emissions contain nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that react together in the presence of sunlight to create ground-level ozone. They also release microscopic particulate matter (PM). Ground-level ozone and particulate matter are major components of smog.

Improvements in vehicle emissions technologies continue to reduce harmful emissions from new vehicles. However, these vehicles can become heavy polluters too, unless they are properly maintained. And many older vehicles without the newest technologies will be on our roads for years to come.

Through Drive Clean, we can make a positive contribution to the quality of our air with proper maintenance of our vehicles and the correction of any emissions problems identified by an emissions test.

Which vehicles must be tested?

Drive Clean applies to you if you own:

- A passenger car, pickup truck, van, sport utility vehicle, other light-duty¹ vehicle, or a motorhome, which is registered to an address in the Drive Clean light-duty vehicle program area.
- A heavy-duty truck or bus powered by diesel fuel that is registered to an address anywhere in the province.
- A heavy-duty truck or bus powered by gasoline, propane or natural gas that is registered to an address in the light-duty vehicle program area.



Light-duty vehicles

Your light-duty vehicle must have an emissions test for registration renewal, beginning when it is three model years older than the current calendar year, and every second year up to and including when it is 19 model years older than the current calendar year.

The following tables show the test requirements for 2004 and 2005:

Model years to be tested for registrations expiring in 2004

2001	1999	1997	1995	1993	1991	1989	1987	1985
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Model years to be tested for registrations expiring in 2005

2002	2000	1998	1996	1994	1992	1990	1988	1986
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¹A light-duty vehicle is one that weighs 4,500 kilograms or less, while a heavy-duty vehicle weighs more than 4,500 kilograms.

If your vehicle requires an emissions test, you will receive a reminder as part of your vehicle licence renewal application from the Ministry of Transportation.

Note: If your plate expires and you delay renewal until the next calendar year, an emissions test will be required for renewal at that time for all model years.

An emissions test is also required for a vehicle being licensed for the road under new ownership, unless the vehicle has an emissions pass issued within the previous 12 months. In 2004, the requirement applies to all vehicles between model years 2003 and 1985, and in 2005, to those between model years 2004 and 1986. Light-duty commercial farm vehicles, kit cars and motorcycles are exempt from *Drive Clean* testing.



Motorhomes registered to addresses in the light-duty vehicle program area also require emissions tests. They are classed with light-duty vehicles for the frequency of testing (every two years). However, the size and weight of these large vehicles means they require testing as heavy-duty vehicles.

Where can I get my vehicle tested?

All *Drive Clean* tests must be performed at *Drive Clean* facilities accredited by the Ministry of the Environment to provide emissions tests. Facilities may provide only tests, only repairs, or both tests and repairs. These facilities have trained and certified staff to operate the testing equipment and to diagnose and repair faults in emissions systems. All facilities are strictly monitored to ensure that proper testing and repair procedures are followed.

How is the *Drive Clean* test done?



An emissions inspector will drive your car or light-duty truck onto a dynamometer. This machine is like a treadmill that allows the vehicle to be “driven” on one spot. A probe is placed in the tailpipe of your vehicle. The probe is connected to a gas analyzer and computer, which can measure the concentration of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), hydrocarbons (HC), which are volatile organic compounds or VOCs, and carbon monoxide (CO).

The vehicle is warmed up to normal operating temperature, and emissions readings are taken while the vehicle is driven on the dynamometer, and then while idling at the end of the test. The test results are compared by a computer to emissions standards for the vehicle and its model year. For example, if you drive a 1995 model car, it will be tested against 1995 emissions standards for that vehicle. Included in the test standards is an allowance for vehicle age and deterioration.

If your vehicle cannot be tested on a dynamometer, it will be given a two-speed idle test, which measures hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide.



If your vehicle has a test-related safety problem, a missing catalytic converter, or releases visible smoke from the tailpipe, it will not be tested until it has been repaired. Such problems could lead to injury and/or malfunctioning of the test equipment.

What is the southern Ontario smog zone?

The southern Ontario smog zone is the area of the province with the greatest population, concentration of vehicles and highest number of poor air quality days. It stretches from Windsor to Ottawa and includes the Niagara Peninsula (*see map on the last page of this brochure*).

What happens after my *Drive Clean* test?

You will receive a computer-generated report at the *Drive Clean* facility that will tell you if your vehicle “passes” or “fails”. It will also tell you the concentrations of pollutants coming from the tailpipe. If your vehicle does not meet emissions standards, you will also receive a fact sheet describing the most common reasons for vehicles to fail the test and information on what to do next.

Test results are automatically recorded in the province’s vehicle registration database. However, vehicle owners need to have a copy of their pass report available when renewing vehicle registrations or transferring ownership.

The *Drive Clean* pass report for your vehicle is valid for registration renewals and ownership transfers for up to 12 months from the date of the test. The pass must be valid on the expiry date of the licence plates, or on the date of the licence transaction in the case of a late renewal or ownership transfer.

What will a *Drive Clean* test cost?

The maximum fee for a light-duty vehicle test is \$35, plus applicable taxes. If your vehicle fails to meet emissions standards, the maximum fee for a re-test after repairs is \$17.50, plus applicable taxes, if the re-test is performed at the *Drive Clean* facility where the initial test was conducted. You are entitled to two re-tests at \$17.50 each, before once again having to pay the full amount. Fees for emissions tests and re-tests for heavy-duty vehicles are set by the test facilities at market rates.

What if my vehicle does not meet the emissions standards?

If your vehicle fails to meet emissions standards, you will need to either have the vehicle repaired to obtain a full pass, or to comply with the requirements of the Repair Cost Limit (RCL) and obtain a conditional pass.

The RCL sets a \$450 maximum on the amount that you must spend on repairs at a *Drive Clean* facility to qualify for a conditional pass for registration renewal only. Any other repairs that put the total cost above the RCL may be deferred. You may continue to obtain conditional passes for future registration renewals – but you will have to meet the requirements of the RCL each time.

If you want to take advantage of the Repair Cost Limit (RCL) to obtain a conditional pass, you must use the services of an accredited *Drive Clean* facility for an emissions-system diagnostic, repair cost estimates and repairs. The RCL will not apply if you prefer to do repairs yourself or go to a garage not accredited by *Drive Clean*.

The RCL does not apply to repairs covered by a manufacturer's warranty or repairs that are required before a *Drive Clean* facility will test a vehicle. The conditional pass may not be used to transfer ownership of a vehicle and plate it for the road, as a consumer protection measure for purchasers of used vehicles.

What if I disagree with the test results or repairs?

If you disagree with the results of a test or the repairs performed at a *Drive Clean* facility, you should contact the *Drive Clean* Call Centre at 1-888-758-2999, as soon as possible. If a dispute cannot be settled, you and the other party may be referred to an independent dispute resolution process. This dispute resolution process is only available if you deal with *Drive Clean* facilities.

Large trucks and buses

Ontario is implementing North America's most stringent emissions standards for heavy-duty diesel trucks and buses in two phases. The new standards took effect on April 1, 2004 and will be tightened again on April 1, 2005. *Drive Clean* also has special requirements for heavy-duty diesel school buses, to help protect the health of children.



It has established an even lower voluntary opacity standard for large trucks and buses as an incentive to encourage better vehicle maintenance. Normally, *Drive Clean* requires heavy-duty vehicles to be tested annually. Owners of vehicles that meet or exceed the voluntary standard, however, may earn an exemption from their next emissions test. This means that cleaner vehicles can be tested every two years, on the same schedule as light-duty vehicles.

The exhaust from all heavy-duty diesel vehicles is tested for opacity, the amount of light that is blocked by the particulate matter (PM) in the emissions. The “dirtier” the smoke, the higher the opacity rating. The particulate matter from vehicle exhaust contributes to smog, and is recognized as a danger to our health because it irritates the lungs and the respiratory system.

Non-diesel vehicles are subject to a two-speed idle test, to measure carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. Emissions test standards for non-diesel heavy-duty vehicles remain unchanged.

The Environmental Protection Act



All vehicles on Ontario’s highways – whether registered in Ontario or from out-of-province – are subject to provisions of the provincial *Environmental Protection Act* (EPA) prohibiting excessive visible exhaust emissions and the alteration or removal of emissions control equipment.

All vehicles must also meet EPA requirements, even if they have passed a *Drive Clean* test.

Idling vehicles can hurt us all

Allowing your vehicle to idle unnecessarily can harm our air and our health and cost you money for wasted fuel and increased vehicle maintenance. In fact, it has been estimated that allowing a vehicle to idle for 10 seconds actually uses more fuel than re-starting the engine.

Idling vehicles also waste fuel because they are not being driven anywhere. They produce unnecessary amounts of smog-causing substances as well as pollutants such as greenhouse gases. In addition, the residues from unburnt fuel can damage engine components. Therefore, turning off the engine whenever possible will help our health, our environment and your vehicle.