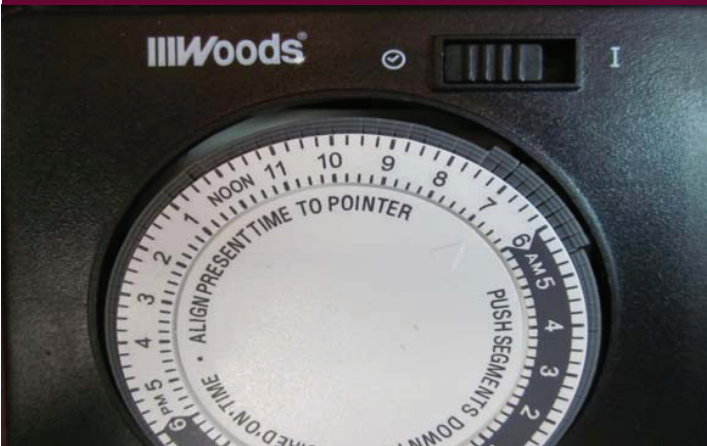


# How to Use a Timer with Your Engine Block



A timer is a convenient way to save energy when using your block heater. At 20° F or less, two to three hours of pre-heating reduces air pollution and engine wear.



Set the timer to supply electricity two to three hours before your commute. If you normally leave at 7:15 AM, push in all gray trippers between 4:15 and 7:15 AM. The switch on the upper right of the timer face should be toward the 'checkmark'.

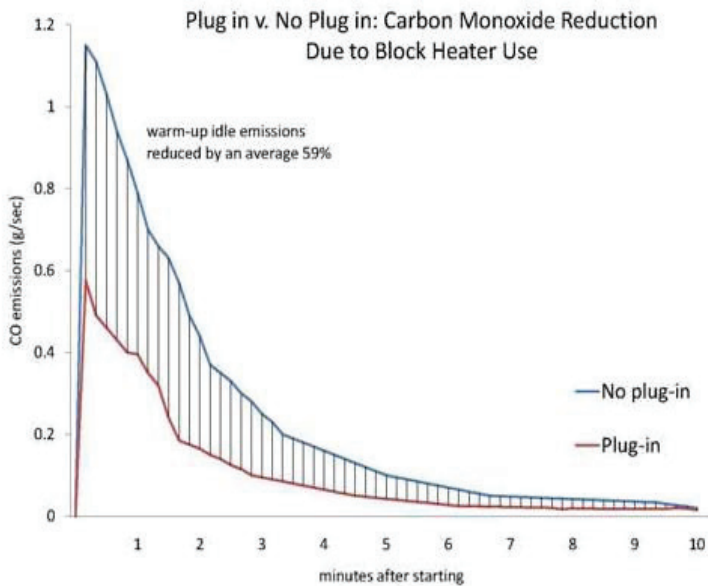
Prepare to mount the timer by confirming power to your outlet; test with an outdoor appliance. Only use a three conductor, GFCI-protected outlet. Set the timer to real time by rotating the face clockwise until the white arrow points to current time.



Mount timer above your outlet with screws. Timer must hang upright and above snow level. Plug it in right after setting the time with the short cord attached to the timer. Keep timer plugged in to maintain time.



Plug in your car each evening to the outlet on the bottom of the timer. The clock face will rotate once a day, but electricity will only flow to the heater during the time segment that trippers are pushed in. Re-set the timer's clock after any power interruptions.



During a typical morning commute more pollution is created by vehicles idling in driveways than driving on roadways. Block heaters reduce these emissions by warming engine components, allowing emission controls to work sooner.

Vehicle emissions testing performed in Anchorage and Fairbanks proved that block heater use substantially reduces carbon monoxide (CO) and other pollution from cold engines.

## What else is needed to Plug@20?

**An engine block heater** must be installed on your car or truck. Block heaters are inexpensive when installed at the factory, so look for them when purchasing vehicles. If you need a heater, your mechanic or dealer may be able to give an estimate by phone based on your vehicle model and year. Often parts and installation come to less than \$200.

**An outdoor electrical receptacle near your parking place** is important - cords laid across the drive are a tripping hazard and may get pushed off your lot by snowplows. Before setting up a timer, use an outdoor appliance to test the outlet for power; some properties do not supply electricity to tenants.

**Outdoor extension cords** need to accommodate three prong plugs. Replace any cords with cracked or frayed insulation. Cords designed for low temperatures keep their flexibility much better in the cold. An illuminated plug on the cord helps confirm that your timer is delivering power on schedule.

\*Timers purchased for 2011 distribution are Woods model 59382 distributed by Coleman Cable ([www.colemancable.com](http://www.colemancable.com)). Instructions for timers distributed in prior years are on the Municipality of Anchorage website - go to [www.muni.org/health](http://www.muni.org/health) for the link to the Plug@20 and Engine Block Heaters pages.

Hint! Make a 'template' to position screws when mounting the timer. Put two dots 2 1/4 inches apart on corrugated cardboard and push screws through. Hold cardboard where the timer will be mounted while driving the screws. Tear cardboard from beneath the screws when done.



Municipality of Anchorage

