

How Hot Can It Get Inside a Closed Vehicle?

Don't leave children or pets in a car while you run an errand – even if it's just going to be for a few minutes. Temperatures can reach dangerous levels in a matter of minutes. **[Beat the Heat - Check the Backseat!](#)**

An un-official scientific experiment was conducted at the National Weather Service Forecast Office near Sullivan, Wisconsin a few summers ago. The objective was to determine how quickly an automobile would heat up to levels that would pose a health hazard to children and pets left in a vehicle with the air-conditioner turned off.

It was a sunny day. The automobile was parked with the sun to the rear. The automobile was dark blue, so it probably absorbed heat quicker and more efficiently than a light colored vehicle.

The simplified experiment consisted of putting an electronic thermometer inside a closed automobile, and one outside of the vehicle to measure ambient temperature in the shade. The interior and exterior readings were compared at timed increments.

The interior of the car was cooled to 83 degrees by the vehicle air conditioner, the engine was turned off and the monitoring was started. After only fifteen minutes the automobile interior heated to a deadly 120 degrees. Many unofficial experiments have been conducted that indicate inside temperatures can rise 35 to 45 degrees above outside temperatures!

Here are the results:

| Time CDT | Interior temperature degrees F | Outside temperature degrees F |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1245 pm | 83 | 92 |
| 100 pm | 120 | 93 |
| 115 pm | 123 | 94 |
| 130 pm | 125 | 93 |
| 145 pm | 127 | 94 |
| 200 pm | 129 | 94 |
| 215 pm | 130 | 95 |
| 230 pm | 131 | 95 |
| 245 pm | 132 | 95 |
| 300 pm | 133 | 95 |
| 315 pm | 134 | 95 |
| 330 pm | 134 | 95 |

When hot temperatures occur it is important to not leave children or pets in parked vehicles, even for short periods of time, under any circumstances!

Heat kills. In the past dozen years over 450 children have died from hyperthermia after being left in or gaining access to unattended cars!

The following is a web site that is useful in highlighting the tragic consequences of leaving children unattended in cars during hot spells <http://ggweather.com/heat/index.htm>