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Turbo Timers

Turbo timers are devices that keep an engine running [perhaps for 5 minutes or more] after the "ignition" is switched off and the key removed.



Turbo timers are essential on some vehicles to allow time for the turbo to spin down and cool down while there is still a supply of oil to the bearings. The vanes in a turbo can get red hot and spin at perhaps 10,000 to 15,000 RPM so to simply let everything come to rest and cool down with no lubrication to the bearings is courting disaster.



There used to be a rumour going around that turbo timers were illegal. The rumour probably stems from the old Road Safety [Traffic] Regulations 1988 or earlier equivalents. They made it illegal to leave a vehicle unattended without first '**stopping its engine**, locking the ignition, and removing the ignition key, applying the brake' and so on.

The new Road Rules [see Government Gazette of 28 October 1999] have changed this situation. They now say you must **switch off the engine**, remove the ignition key, apply the brake etc. It is marvellous what a simple little change to the words can do, isn't it?

