



Gaining extra power on a Deere Gator or Kubota RTV is as easy as installing an SFS turbo kit, says Ted Meyer at SFS.

Turbocharge Kits For Kubota RTV's, Deere Gators

People always want more power from their equipment, especially at higher elevations. In the case of Kubota RTV's and Deere Gators, the potential is there, suggests Ted Meyer, SFS. Gaining extra power on a Deere Gator or Kubota RTV is as easy as installing an SFS turbo kit.

"We do a lot of tractor pulling, and the majority of the teams use Kubota RTV's as work vehicles because they're so durable and well built," says Meyer. "The two complaints is that they need more power and that they stop too aggressively when you back off the foot throttle."

With extensive experience putting turbochargers on 4020 Deere tractors and 6.9-liter diesel pickups, Meyer and the SFS team developed a turbo kit for the RTV's and later for Gators as well. They also developed a "coast valve" for the Kubota RTV 900, 1100 and 1140. It bypasses or modulates the hydrostatic pressure during deceleration.

"Performance wise, the turbos deliver up to a 50 percent or better gain depending on what elevation you are at and how the injection pump is adjusted," says Meyer. "The coast valve lets you shift much more easily between ranges."

Meyer says installation is straightforward and simple with both turbos and coast valve.

"The turbo installation instructions include how to adjust the injection pump and information on adjusting the transmission as well," says Meyer. "The bolt-on turbos can be installed in a few hours. The coast valve can be installed in 30 min. or less."

Both turbo kits are listed at \$1,998. Coast valves are listed at \$139.99.

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Reader Inquiry No. 65

Propane Valve Boosts MPG, HP

By injecting a little propane into diesel engines you get faster speeds, more power, and a cleaner burn, says Craig Ridgeway, RMR Pro-Diesel Technology. Ridgeway says his Propane Enhancer, a patented progressive fuel valve, is catching on fast. He's installed the system on turbo-powered semis, field tractors and even pickups.

"The secret to using propane is to deliver the right amount at the right time," says Ridgeway, who has been burning propane in diesel engines since he was a kid on the family farm. "If you deliver too much or not enough, you lose fuel efficiency."

Ridgeway's valves are activated by the engine's turbo boost pressure. As the boost pressure increases, more vapor propane is fed into the air intake, giving the engine only the amount of propane needed to maximize efficiency.

Each installation of the valve is specific to that particular engine.

"We have an advanced dynamometer in our shop that gives us an accurate reading of engine usage and exact settings for our system," explains Ridgeway. "If you can't come to us, we provide a suggested setting based on our records of installation on the same engine in a similar situation. Once installed, it can be fine tuned to get the optimum flow."

Ridgeway has installed propane valve on more than 700 engines over the past four years with zero engine failures due to propane. RMR promotes an increase of one to three miles per gallon on over the road diesels. Ridgeway says he likes to be conservative in promises. His results, as well as customer reported results, point to much higher returns.

"I've raised my mileage pulling trailers by 6 mpg," he says. "Overall, my Duramax has gone from 14 to 16 mpg to 25 to 32 mpg."

Ridgeway has also installed his propane units on field tractors and bulldozers. He reports his 8640 Deere burned 16 gph pulling his 30-ft. chisel plow. Injecting only 1 1/2 to 2 gal. of propane per hour dropped diesel use to 9.2 gph. The increased power also let him double ground speed.



Propane Enhancer injects a little propane into diesel engines for faster speeds, more power, and a cleaner burn in tractors and trucks.

Ridgeway says he can literally see the difference on his 8640 Deere. "When I am burning straight diesel, I can see the shadow of the exhaust on the ground," he says. "When I turn on the propane, the shadow goes away."

"I put a system on a D4 Cat, and it boosted output from its rated 57 horsepower to 120 when using propane," says Ridgeway. "I've put mega hours on it pushing twice as much dirt as it used to do on diesel alone."

He says the propane simply helps burn diesel fuel more efficiently. Typically, he explains, only about 75 percent of diesel used is burned. With the propane injected, efficiency jumps to 98 percent.

"That's where we get our increased power," says Ridgeway. "We turn that wasted fuel into energy."

Burning the diesel more completely reduces carbon buildup in an engine for longer engine life. It also cleans up the exhaust.

Ridgeway says, "When you put a pencil to it, you'll be surprised how quickly it pays for itself in fuel savings and extra power."

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