

How many over 40 year old classic cars are still on the road today?



According to the DVLA there are around 340,000 classic vehicles over 40 years old owned by registered keepers but about one in eight of them, over 41,000, are declared off the road and are on Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN). Several of these will be undergoing restoration but most will be off the road for the winter to avoid having to drive on the corrosive salt and sand used in this country.

What describes a 'classic car'? The most accurate is a vehicle that is more than 40 years old and therefore qualifies for 'historic vehicle' benefits such as an exemption from annual MOT tests and the payment of road tax or vehicle excise duty. Also vehicles over 40 years old are generally exempt from the ever increasing emission zone charges.

Classic cars are usually owned by enthusiasts who either maintain them themselves or have a garage maintain them on a regular basis so that they are in good condition for summer driving or exhibiting at classic car shows. The DVLA says that this and the fact that most cover only very limited mileage justifies them not having to undergo an annual MOT test.



Photo Rod Lomax