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Turbocharger Failures

Subaru turbochargers are designed to operate at up to 180,000 rpm. Tampering with the turbo boost pressure can increase the speed to 200,000 rpm, which will lead to premature turbocharger failure.

Another possible cause is that the air cleaner element was removed and a foreign object has entered the turbocharger, or an inadequate aftermarket wide-mesh filter was used, allowing dirt into the unit. Any resulting imbalance of the turbine/compressor shaft can also cause turbocharger failure.

Generally speaking, the first indication of a damaged turbocharger will be a high frequency noise. A damaged turbo shaft will also lead to loss of power and high oil consumption.