

Q: I thought that an `#if 0` block will ignore everything inside it. But it doesn't.

A: The ANSI standard says that `#if` statements only ignore syntactically correct code. So if there are syntax errors, you get an error. Two particularly nasty ones are unterminated comments, and unterminated string constants. See examples below.

`/tmp/foo.c` contains:

```
#ifdef NEVER
/* this is the start of
a comment that never ends
#endif
```

`/lib/cpp /tmp/foo.c` generates:

```
/tmp/foo.c:1: unterminated '#if' conditional
```

Or, `/tmp/foo.c` contains:

```
#ifdef NEVER
some words with a single quote ' OK
#endif
```

it generates:

```
/tmp/foo.c:2: unterminated string constant  
/tmp/foo.c:1: unterminated #if conditional
```

Note: In 3.0 or 3.1, the error generated reads:

```
/tmp/foo.c:2: unterminated character constant
```

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Valid for 1.0, 2.0, 3.0