

Inspecting Shock Mountings

The purpose of these instructions is to explain how to inspect your shock mountings for common problems.

Necessary Supplies: hoist and wrench

Inspect the Shocks

If your shocks are noisy or you suspect you have loose shocks:

1. Place vehicle on a hoist that supports the wheels.
2. Check all the mountings for the following conditions:
 - Worn or defective grommets
 - Loose mounting nuts
 - Possible interference condition

Note: if there are no apparent defects listed above and you still hear noise, proceed to the next section, Inspecting Shocks for Possible Loss of Hydraulic Fluid.

Inspect the Shocks for Hydraulic Fluid Loss

1. Disconnect each shock lower mounting as required and pull down on the shock until it is fully extended.
2. Inspect shocks for leaks in the seal cover area. Shock fluid is a very thin hydraulic fluid that has a characteristic odor and a dark brown tint.

Note: Observe the following precautions when you inspect the shocks for leaks:

- Shocks may have glossy paint on them; do not confuse this paint with a leak condition.
- A slight trace of shock fluid around the seal cover area is normal and is not cause for replacement. The shock seal is engineered to permit a slight seepage to lubricate the rod. The shock absorber has reserve fluid to compensate for the slight seepage.
- Shocks are sometimes incorrectly diagnosed as leakers due to oil spray originating from some other source. If in doubt, wipe the wet area and manually operate the shock. Fluid will reappear if the shock is leaking.

Remove and Replace Shocks

1. Remove the upper shock attachment.
2. Remove the lower shock attachment and slide it off the stud. Because of minimum clearance between the stud and axle mounting plate, you may have to slightly twist or rotate to remove it.

Note: Reverse these two steps to reinstall the shocks.