WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:
PROPER TORQUE WRENCH USE AND MAINTENANCE TIPS

Designed to impart a specific force to a fastener, torque wrenches are one of the most precise, specialized and accurate tools a Professional Technician utilizes daily.

Torque wrenches are available in a wide array of sizes, torque ranges and types. For passenger vehicles and truck undercar applications, conventional sizes are 3/8, 1/2 and 3/4 inch, ranging from 50 IN.LBs (6 N-M) to 600 FT.LBs (813 N-M). Common torque wrench types include beam, click and digital. To achieve a particular specification, a torque wrench may be paired with an accessory, such as a torque angle gauge.



Beam Type



Click Type



Digital Type



Angle Gauge

For a successful repair:

- Always consult and verify the original vehicle manufacturer's service manual with regards to: proper torque value, sequence, direction, angle applicability of lubricant or thread lock on the fastener and/or "engage/release" cycles during replacement part installation
- A torque wrench should only be used to apply a final assembly torque value or as part of a final assembly sequence. Never use a torque wrench as the initial method to loosen or tighten fasteners
- Select the appropriate torque wrench for the size of the fastener and indicated torque value. Do not exceed the indicated range of a torque wrench. This may damage the fastener, replacement part and/or torque wrench
- Use the torque wrench in a consistent and controlled manner. Avoid sudden, jerking or inconsistent pulls/turns of the wrench
- Once the torque wrench indicates the pre-set value has been reached (clicks, beeps or lights up), do not continue to pull/turn
- Do not drop or subject a torque wrench to sharp impacts. This can cause non-visible damage or misalignment of internal components. A dropped torque wrench may require recalibration
- Frequently inspect torque wrench and sockets and replace if there are signs of excessive wear and/or damage
- After use, all dirt, grime and fluids should be removed from the surface of the torque wrench. Always store in the associated protective hard case in a dry and clean environment
- Before returning a click type wrench to storage, ensure it is wound back down to the lowest setting on the scale
- Do not modify or otherwise alter a torque wrench. Do not use accessories or extensions unless permitted by the torque wrench manufacturer
- A torque wrench should be inspected and recalibrated after ~5000 cycles of use or as otherwise indicated. Recalibrations should be performed by the torque wrench manufacturer or a third-party service according to the benchmarks set out under ISO 6789 and other applicable standards
- The integrity of the fastener, replacement part, mating component and/or torque wrench may be compromised by failing to adhere to the specifications of both the original vehicle and torque wrench manufacturer

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