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Service Tips and Best Practices

Importance of Frequent Strut Assembly and Shock Inspection

Brand	N/A	Product	Suspension	Date	March 2021
Part Number(s)	N/A				

Under normal service conditions, shocks and strut assembly components (shock, spring, strut mount) typically lose their performance characteristics gradually. This incremental reduction in ride quality, control and handling may not be readily perceptible to the vehicle owner.

Under severe duty conditions, after an accident or when a vehicle's suspension is aged, overloaded or modified, the loss of performance characteristics may be more rapid and readily apparent.

In addition to impacting ride quality, control and vehicle handling, a strut assembly or spring which is worn and or out of specification may alter a vehicle's suspension geometry and subsequently, the correct vehicle ride height.

Consequently, this may lead to additional stress and loading onto other suspension components, including but not limited to ball joints, control arm bushings and wheel bearings. Tires may exhibit uneven wear patterns and or swiftly require replacement. This additional stress and loading may lead to a premature failure of these associated parts.

As such, it is important to always regularly inspect for mechanical indications of worn and or out of specification strut assemblies or shocks. These include but are not limited to:

- Sagging or broken springs
- Seized or leaking shocks
- Worn or seized strut mounts
- Uneven tire wear

Additionally, some indicators while the vehicle is in motion include but are not limited to:

- Excessive sway or lean while turning
- Nosedive condition while braking
- Loss in stopping distance
- Vehicle continues to bounce after moving over a bump/road imperfection
- Vehicle ride is stiff/harsh/bumpy

Shocks and strut assemblies should be frequently inspected to help maintain a vehicle's correct suspension geometry, prevent unnecessary stress and loading on suspension components and maintain ride, control and handling characteristics. Always ensure to reference original factory service manual for proper diagnostic, removal and replacement procedures and all related specifications and values.

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