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Service Tips and Best Practices

Importance of Frequent Strut Mount Inspection

Brand	Supreme	Product	Strut Mounts	Date	April 2021
Part Number(s)	Various				

A strut mount reduces and isolates movement, noise and vibration emanating from the strut as the vehicle is in motion. This improves vehicle ride quality, control and handling. Additionally, most strut mounts incorporate a bearing which has a pivot function- as the steering wheel is turned, the strut pivots on the strut mount, managing wheel angle and correct alignment.

Under normal service conditions, strut mounts typically lose their performance characteristics gradually. It is important to note that because struts are always travelling to some degree while the vehicle is in motion, strut mounts are subject to constant loading forces. This push and pull acts on the strut mount, causing wear overtime. Furthermore, along with the coil spring, they hold the full weight of the vehicle. This incremental reduction in ride quality, control and handling may not be readily perceptible to the vehicle owner.

Under severe duty conditions, after a curb strike 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 mount which is excessively 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 rapidly 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 indications of worn and or out of specification strut mounts. These include but are not limited to:

- Premature wear of shocks
- Excessive movement of shock
- Abnormal vibration as the vehicle is in motion
- Abnormal noises (clunks/squeaks) as the wheel vehicle travels over bumps or during low speed maneuvers
- Uneven wheel alignment
- Uneven tire wear
- Impaired steering return (binding)
- Cracking, tearing and or separation of rubber material from strut mount body

Strut mounts 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. It is recommended to replace strut mount in pairs- left and right side- at the same time to maintain even ride height and vehicle responsiveness. 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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