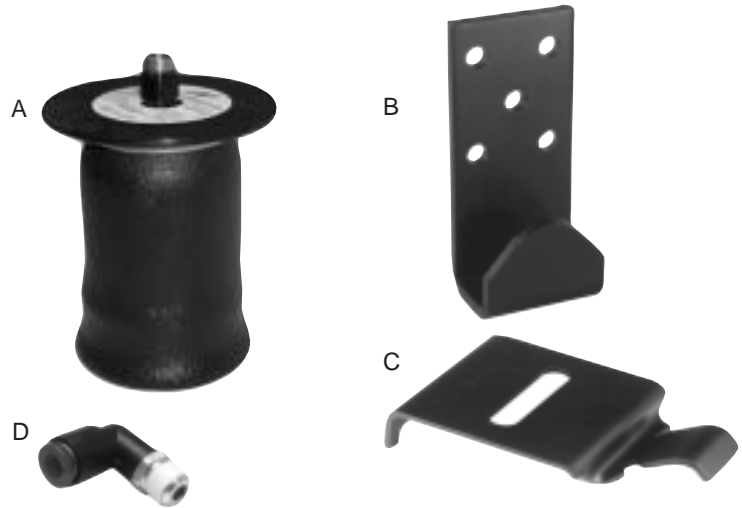


Please read these instructions completely before proceeding with installation

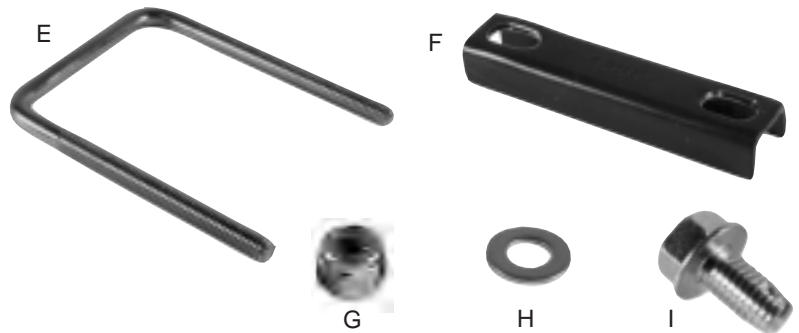
### Air Spring Kit Parts List

Item	Description	Quantity
A	Air Sleeves	2
B	Upper Brackets	2
C	Lower Brackets	2
D	Elbow Fitting	2



### Bracket Attaching Hardware

Item	Description	Quantity
E	3/8"-16 U-Bolts	2
F	Clamp Bar	2
G	3/8" Nylock Nuts	4
H	3/8" Flat Washers	4
I	3/8" x 1" WHST	6



### Air Spring Attaching Hardware

Item	Description	Quantity
J	1/2" x 7/8" Hex Head Bolts	2
K	3/4" Nylon Nut	2
L	1/2" Flat Washers	2



### Air Line Assembly Parts List

Item	Description	Quantity
AA	Air Line Assembly	1
BB	Tie Strap	6
CC	Valve Caps	2
DD	5/16" Flat Washer	2
EE	Rubber Washer	2
FF	Small Star Washer	2
GG	5/16" Hex Nut	4
HH	Hose Clip	4
II	3/4" Self Tapping Bolt	4



## Tools Needed

$\frac{1}{2}$ " ,  $\frac{9}{16}$ " , &  $\frac{3}{4}$ " open end or box wrenches  
Ratchet with  $\frac{3}{8}$ " ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " , &  $\frac{9}{16}$ " deep well sockets  
 $\frac{5}{16}$ " drill bit (very sharp)  
 $\frac{7}{16}$ " &  $\frac{9}{16}$ " Nut Drivers  
Heavy Duty Drill  
Torque Wrench

Hose Cutter, Razor Blade, or Sharp Knife  
Hoist or Floor Jacks  
Safety Stands  
Safety Glasses  
Air Compressor, or Compressed Air Source  
Spray Bottle with Dish Soap/Water Solution



**IMPORTANT:** Your vehicle may be equipped with a rear brake proportioning valve. Any type of load assist product could affect brake performance. We recommend that you check with your dealer before installing this type of product. If your vehicle DOES NOT have a rear brake proportioning valve or is equipped with an anti-lock type brake system, installation of a load assist product will have NO EFFECT ON BRAKE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE.

**IMPORTANT:** Failure to maintain correct minimum pressure (or pressure proportional to load), bottoming out, overextension, or rubbing against another component will void the warranty.

**DANGER:** Compressed air can cause injury and damage to the vehicle and parts if it is not handled properly. For your safety, do not try to inflate the air springs until they have been properly secured to the vehicle.

## I. Getting Started



Figure 1



Figure 2

1. Determine the Normal Ride Height. *The Normal Ride Height is the distance between the bottom edge of the wheel-well and the center of the hub with the vehicle in the "as delivered" condition.* In some cases, Normal Ride Height is not perfectly level.
  - a. Remove unusual loads and examine your vehicle from the side to ensure it is on a level surface (Figure 1).
  - b. If necessary (in cases where your leaf springs are sagging badly), use a jack to raise the rear end so that the vehicle achieves the original "as delivered" ride height.
2. Measure the distance between the center of the hub and the bottom edge of the wheel well (Figure 2). This is the Normal Ride Height. Enter the measurement below:

NORMAL  
RIDE HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ inches
3. **IMPORTANT:** *Be sure to follow the specific instructions for the correct vehicle application.*
4. See special installation instructions for the Dodge Durango.

## II. Deciding Where To Mount

1. This kit will function in front or behind the axle. It is also permissible to stagger the air spring, if necessary, for fit. Where the kit is installed will depend on the type of vehicle presented.
2. For Mazda and Toyota applications, mount the air spring assembly *forward* of the axle housing.
3. For Chevy/GMC, Isuzu, Nissan, Oldsmobile, and Dodge applications, mount the air spring assembly *behind* the axle housing.
4. If your vehicle make is not listed above, set the air spring assembly on the leaf spring and check for clearance problems or obstructions that would prevent mounting the kit in that location.



Figure 3



Figure 4

## III. Assembling the Air Spring Unit

1. Install 90 degree air swivel fitting (D) to the top of the air spring. Use a  $\frac{7}{16}$ " open end wrench being careful to tighten on the metal hex nut only. Tighten finger tight plus 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  turns (Figure 3). Do not over tighten.

*NOTE: This fitting is precoated with sealant.*

2. Thread the attached fitting through the upper bracket (B) (Figure 4). Position the elbow towards the front or rear of the vehicle depending on which direction will allow easier access for the air line.
3. Slide the nylon nut (K) over the air fitting and onto the thread post, making sure that the flat side is up (Figure 5).
4. Tighten the nylon nut to secure the bracket. Hand tight is sufficient.

*IMPORTANT: Ensure that the bracket is tight and flat to the roll plate on both sides.*

5. Loosely attach the lower bracket (C) to the bottom of the air spring with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " flat washer (L) and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Hex Head Cap Screw (J). See Figure 6.

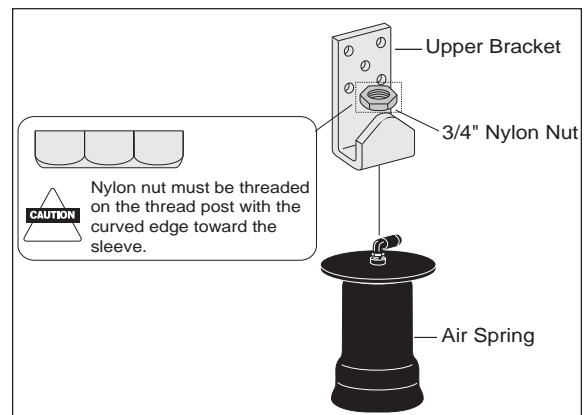


Figure 5



Figure 6

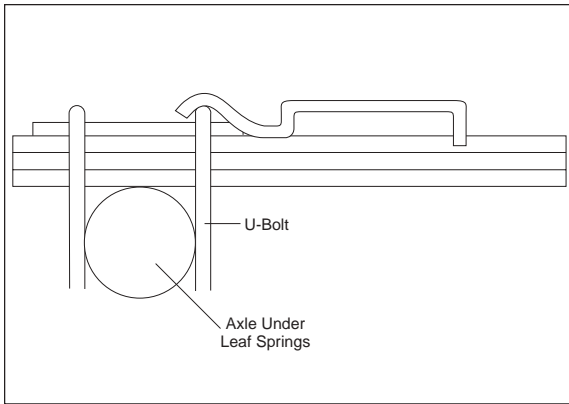


Figure 7

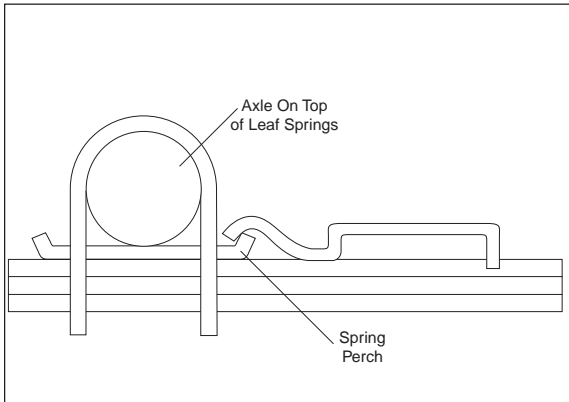


Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

## IV. Mounting the Lower Bracket

1. With the vehicle at normal ride height, set the bracket-air spring assembly on the leaf spring in the determined location (forward or behind). Set the assembly onto the leaf spring with the hook end of the lower bracket (C) over the spring perch or factory U-bolt. The hook end of the lower bracket must lock over the U-bolt or perch to avoid moving along the leaf spring. See Figure 7 and 8.

*NOTE: For some Chevy/GMC S-Series Pickups and Blazer/Jimmy models, there may be a small tab located on the spring perch plate (Figure 9). It will be necessary to trim this tab off for proper placement of the lower bracket. This can be achieved by using a hack saw or die grinder.*

2. Secure the lower bracket to the leaf spring using U-bolt (E), clamp bar (F), flat washers (H), and nylock nuts (G). See Figure 10. Tighten to 16 ft-lbs.

## V. Locating the Upper Bracket

1. The upper bracket (B) must be parallel and perpendicular to the lower bracket (C). See Figures 11 and 12

### 2. **IMPORTANT: Dodge Durangos Only**

The Dodge Durango is equipped with an inner fenderwell liner. The first option is that the upper bracket can be positioned on the outside of the liner behind the axle (Durango Option 1 below). The second option is that the liner can be trimmed away as shown in the Durango Option 2 below.

3. Align the upper bracket so that the short leg of the upper bracket touches the bottom of the frame rail (Figures 13 and 14).

**IMPORTANT:** If the short leg of this bracket does not contact the frame rail, the warranty will be void.



Durango Option 1



Durango Option 2

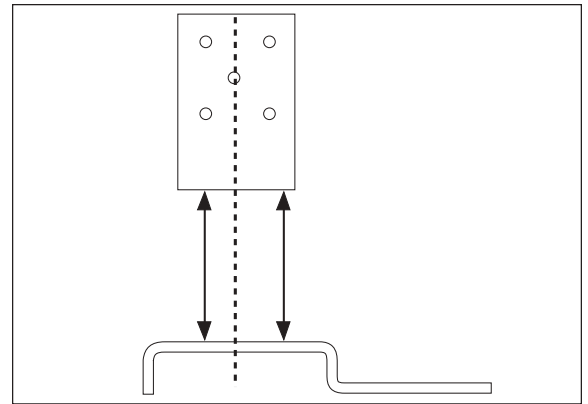


Figure 11



Figure 12

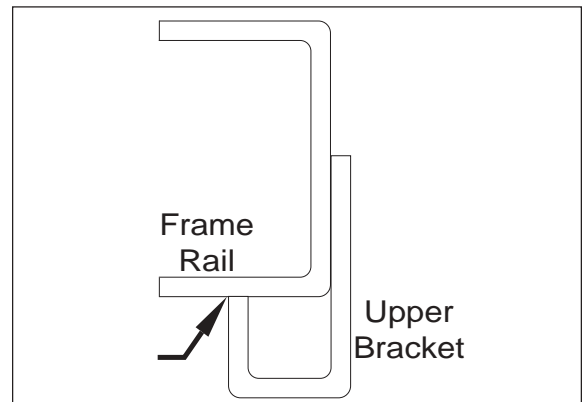


Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15

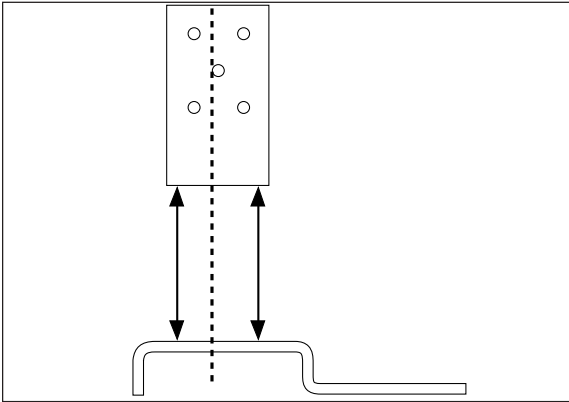


Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18

4. Be sure that the upper bracket is parallel and perpendicular to the lower bracket (Figures 11 and 12). Using the upper bracket as a template, center punch one hole (Figure 15). A welding clamp or C-clamp may assist in holding the upper bracket to the frame.

*NOTE: It is necessary to use at least three of the five pre-drilled holes in the upper bracket for mounting. Any combination of the three is permissible.*

5. **CAUTION:** Before drilling, be sure to check the back side of the frame rail for brake lines, gas lines, or electrical lines that may be in the way. It is necessary to move any interfering lines prior to drilling.

6. Drill one  $\frac{5}{16}$ " hole and install one WHST (I). See Figure 16. Tighten to 15 ft-lbs.

*IMPORTANT: Check again to make sure that the upper and lower brackets are parallel and perpendicular to each other (Figure 16).*

7. Centerpunch and drill remaining two holes and install the WHST (I). Again, torque to 15 ft-lbs. Do not over tighten (Figure 17).

## VI. Installing the Other Side

1. Install the minimum/maximum air pressure decal in a highly visible location.
2. Repeat entire installation procedure for remaining side.
3. Continue with section VII, Installing the Air Lines.

## VII. Installing the Air Lines

1. Choose a convenient location for mounting the inflation valves. Popular locations for the inflation valve are:
  - a. The wheel well flanges.
  - b. License plate recess in bumper.
  - c. Under the gas cap access door.
  - d. Through license plate itself.

*NOTE: What ever the chosen location is, make sure there is enough clearance around the inflation valves for an air chuck.*



Figure 19

2. Drill a  $\frac{5}{16}$ " hole to install the inflation valves.
3. Cut the air line assembly (AA) in two equal lengths (Figure 19).

*CAUTION: When cutting or trimming the air line, use a hose cutter (Air Lift P/N 10530), a razor blade or a sharp knife. A clean, square cut will ensure against leaks. (Figure 20a). Do not use wire cutters or scissors to cut the air line. These tools may flatten or crimp the air line, causing it to leak around the O-ring seal inside the elbow fitting (Figure 20b).*

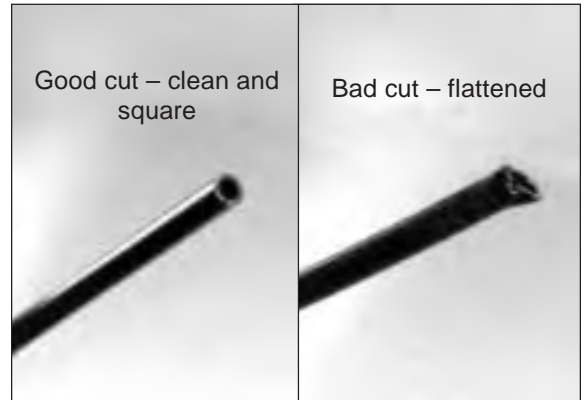


Figure 20a

Figure 20b

4. Place a  $\frac{5}{16}$ " nut (GG) and a star washer (FF) on the air valve. Leave enough of the inflation valve in front of the nut to extend through the hole and have room for the rubber washer (EE), flat washer (DD), and  $\frac{5}{16}$ " nut (GG) and cap (CC). There should be enough valve exposed after installation - approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " - to easily apply a pressure gauge or an air chuck (Figure 21).



Figure 21

5. Push the inflation valve through the hole and use the rubber washer (EE), flat washer (DD), and another  $\frac{5}{16}$ " nut (GG) to secure it in place. Tighten the nuts to secure the assembly in place (Figure 22).

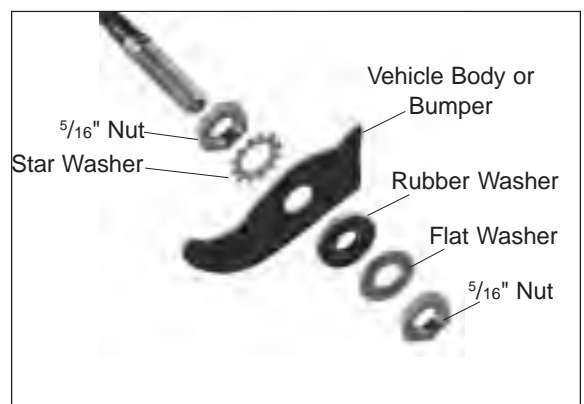


Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25

6. Route the air line along the frame to the air fitting on the air spring. Keep at least 6" of clearance between the air line and heat sources, such as the exhaust pipes, muffler, or catalytic converter. Avoid sharp bends and edges. Use the plastic tie straps (BB) to secure the air line to fixed, non-moving points along the chassis (Figure 23). Be sure that the tie straps are tight, but do not pinch the air line. Where there are no holes to secure the straps to, use the air line clip (HH) and self tapper (II) to secure the air line to the frame (Figure 24). Leave at least 2" of slack to allow for any movement that might pull on the air line.
7. Cut off air line leaving approximately 12" of extra air line. A clean square cut will ensure against leaks. Insert the air line into the air fitting. This is a push to connect fitting. Simply push the air line into the 90° swivel fitting until it bottoms out ( $\frac{9}{16}$ " of air line should be in the fitting). See Figure 25.



## VIII. Aligning the Air Springs

1. **IMPORTANT:** With the bottom of the air spring still loose, inflate the air spring to approximately 10 p.s.i. Use the slotted adjustment in the lower bracket to correctly align the air spring between the upper and lower bracket. This can be accomplished by tapping it inboard or outboard for proper alignment. There should be a symmetrical cushion of air around the base of the air spring when correctly positioned. Figure 26 represents a misaligned air spring. Figure 27 shows a properly aligned air spring.
2. When aligned, tighten the lower end by holding the air spring and turning the bolt with a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " open end wrench (Figure 28). Snug (10 ft-lbs) will be sufficient and will also prevent stripping the threads. *Do not attempt to hold the air spring with any type of tool.*
3. Figure 29 shows the completed installation.

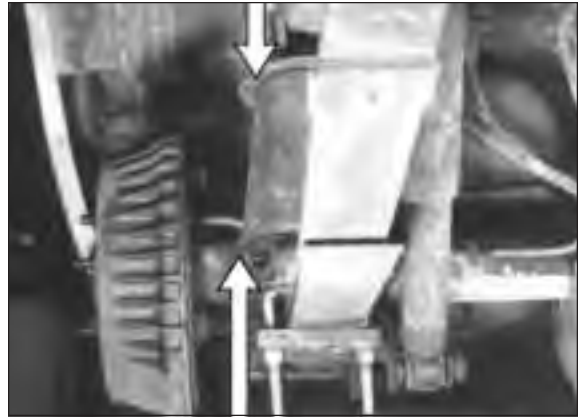


Figure 26

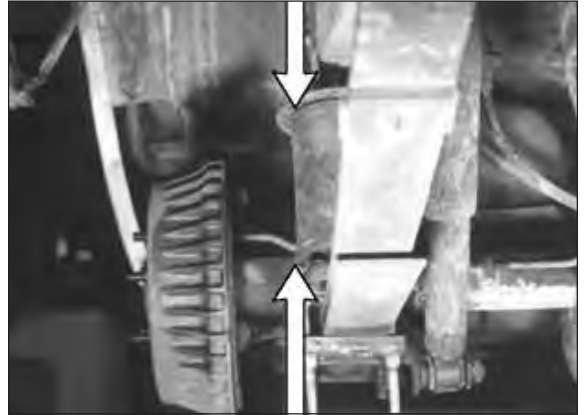


Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 29



Figure 30



Figure 31

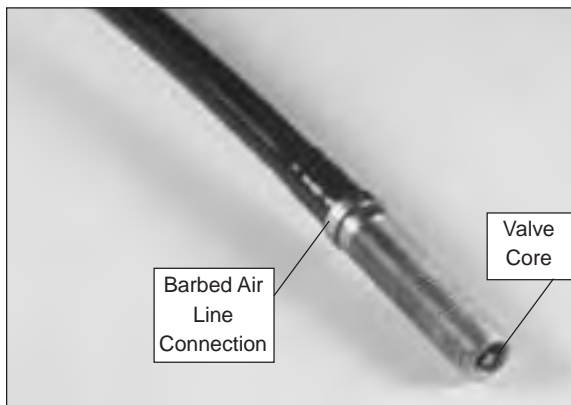


Figure 32

## IX. Checking for Leaks

1. Inflate the air spring to 60 p.s.i.
2. Spray all connections and the inflation valves with a solution of  $\frac{1}{5}$  liquid dish soap and  $\frac{4}{5}$  water to check for leaks (Figure 30). You should be able to spot leaks easily by looking for bubbles in the soapy water.
3. After the test, deflate the springs to the minimum pressure required to restore the Normal Ride Height, but not less than 5 p.s.i.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Check the air pressure again after 24 hours. A 2 to 4 p.s.i. loss after initial installation is normal. Retest for leaks if the loss is more than 5 lbs.

## X. Fixing Leaks

1. If there is a problem with the swivel fitting, then:
  - a. Check the air line connection by deflating the spring and removing the line by pulling the collar against the fitting and pulling firmly on the air line. Trim 1" off the end of the air line. Be sure the cut is clean and square. Reinsert the air line into the push-to-connect fitting. See Figure 31.
  - b. Check the threaded connection by tightening the swivel fitting another  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn. If it still leaks, deflate the air spring, remove the fitting, and re-coat the threads with thread sealant. Reinstall by hand tightening as much as possible, then use a wrench for an additional two turns. See Figure 31.
2. If there is a problem with the inflation valve, then:
  - a. Check the valve core by tightening it with a valve core tool.
  - b. Check the air line connection (Figure 32) by removing the air line from the barbed type fitting. **CAUTION: Do not cut it off. As this will usually nick the barb and render the fitting useless.** Cut air line off a few inches in front of the fitting and use a pair of pliers or vise-grips to pull/twist the air line off the fitting.

## XI. Troubleshooting Guide

*Problems maintaining air pressure, without on-board compressor.*

1. Leak test the air line connections and threaded connection of the elbow into the air spring (Figure 30). See Section X to repair.
2. Leak test the inflation valve for leaks at the air line connection or dirt or debris in the valve core (Figure 33). See Section X for repair.
3. Inspect air lines to be sure it is not pinched. Tie straps may be too tight. Loosen or replace strap. Replace leaking components (Figure 34).
4. Inspect air line for holes and cracks (Figure 35). Replace as needed.
5. A kink or fold in the air line (Figure 36). Reroute as needed.



*Figure 33*



*Figure 34*



*Figure 35*



*Figure 36*

### XIII. Maintenance and Operations

Minimum Air Pressure	Maximum Air Pressure
5 p.s.i.	100 p.s.i.
<i>Failure to maintain correct minimum pressure (or pressure proportional to load), bottoming out, over-extension, or rubbing against another component will void the warranty.</i>	

By following these steps, vehicle owners will obtain the longest life and best results from their air springs.

1. Check the air pressure weekly.
2. Always maintain Normal Ride Height. Never inflate beyond 100 p.s.i.
3. If you develop an air leak in the system, use a soapy water solution to check all air line connections and the inflation valve core before deflating and removing the air spring. (See page 9.)
4. When increasing load, always adjust the air pressure to maintain the Normal Ride Height. Increase or decrease pressure from the system as necessary to attain Normal Ride Height for optimal ride and handling. Remember that loads carried behind the axle (including tongue loads) require more leveling force (pressure) than those carried directly over the axle.
5. **IMPORTANT:** For your safety and to prevent possible damage to your vehicle, *do not exceed maximum Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), as indicated by the vehicle manufacturer.* Although your air springs are rated at a maximum inflation pressure of 100 p.s.i. The air pressure actually needed is dependant on your load and GVWR, which may be less than 100 p.s.i. Check your vehicle owners manual and do not exceed the maximum load listed for your vehicle.
6. Always add air to springs in small quantities, checking the pressure frequently. Sleeves require less air volume than a tire and inflate quickly.
7. *Should it become necessary to raise the vehicle by the frame, make sure the system is at minimum pressure (5 p.s.i.) to reduce the tension on the suspension/brake components. Use of on-board leveling systems do not require deflation or disconnection.*



# Product Use Information

## Frequently asked questions

**Q. Will installing air springs increase the weight ratings of a vehicle?**

No. Adding air springs will not change the weight ratings (GAWR, GCWR and/or GVWR) of a vehicle. Exceeding the GVWR is dangerous and voids the Air Lift warranty.

**Q. Is it necessary to keep air in the air springs at all time and how much pressure will they need?**

The minimum air pressure should be maintained at all times. The minimum air pressure keeps the air spring in shape, ensuring that it will move throughout its travel without rubbing or wearing on itself.

**Q. Is it necessary to add a compressor system to the air springs?**

No. Air pressure can be adjusted with any type of compressor as long as it can produce sufficient pressure to service the springs. Even a bicycle tire pump can be used, but it's a lot of work.

**Q. How long should air springs last?**

If the air springs are properly installed and maintained they can last indefinitely.

**Q. Will raising the vehicle on a hoist for service work damage the air springs?**

No. The vehicle can be lifted on a hoist for short-term service work such as tire rotation or oil changes. However, if the vehicle will be on the hoist for a prolonged period of time, support the axle with jack stands in order to take the tension off of the air springs.

## Tuning the air pressure

Pressure determination comes down to three things — level vehicle, ride comfort, and stability.

**1. Level vehicle**

If the vehicle's headlights are shining into the trees or the vehicle is leaning to one side, then it is not level (fig. 1). Raise the air pressure to correct either of these problems and level the vehicle.

**2. Ride comfort**

If the vehicle has a rough and harsh ride it may be due to either too much pressure or not enough (fig. 2). Try different pressures to determine the best ride comfort.

**3. Stability**

Stability translates into safety and should be the priority, meaning the driver may need to sacrifice a perfectly level and comfortable ride. Stability issues include roll control, bounce, dive during braking and sponginess (fig. 3). Tuning out these problems usually requires an increase in pressure.



Bad headlight aim



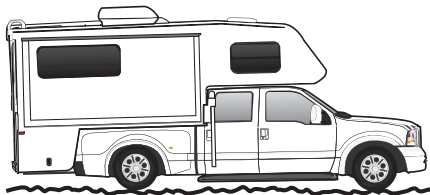
Sway and body roll



Rough ride

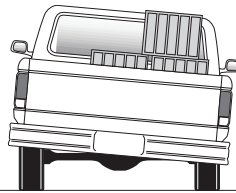
### Guidelines for adding air:

1. Start with the vehicle level or slightly above.
2. When in doubt, always add air.
3. For motorhomes, start with 50-100 PSI in the rear because it can be safely assumed that it is heavily loaded.
4. If the front of the vehicle dives while braking, increase the pressure in the front air bags, if equipped.
5. If it is ever suspected that the air bags have bottomed out, increase the pressure (fig. 4).
6. Adjust the pressure up and down to find the best ride.
7. If the vehicle rocks and rolls, adjust the air pressure to reduce movement.
8. It may be necessary to maintain different pressures on each side of the vehicle. Loads such as water, fuel, and appliances will cause the vehicle to be heavier on one side (fig. 5). As much as a 50 PSI difference is not uncommon.

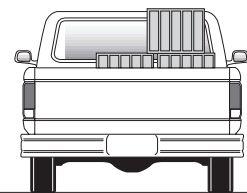


Bottoming out

*fig. 4*



Unlevel



Level

*fig. 5*