

Kit Number **88339**

INSTALLATION GUIDE

For maximum effectiveness and safety, please read these instructions completely before proceeding with installation.

Failure to read these instructions can result in an incorrect installation.

Internal jounce bumper

11111

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction
Important Safety Notice
Notation Explanation
Installation Diagram 3
Hardware List
Tools List
Installing the LoadLifter 5000 Ultimate System
Getting Started
Assembling the Air Springs
Installing the Assemblies
Installing the Air Lines
Installing the Heat Shield
Checking for Leaks
Fixing Leaks
Before Operating16
Installation Checklist
Post-Installation Checklist
Product Use, Maintenance and Servicing17
Minimum and Maximum Pressure
Maintenance Guidelines
Troubleshooting Guide
Frequently Asked Questions
Tuning the Air Pressure. 18
Guidelines for Adding Air
Choosing the Right On-Board Air Compressor System 20
Warranty and Returns Policy24
Replacement Information25
Contact Information



Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to assist with the installation, maintenance and troubleshooting of the LoadLifter 5000 Ultimate air spring kit. LoadLifter 5000 Ultimate utilizes sturdy, reinforced, commercial grade single- or double-bellows (depending on the kit). The bellows are manufactured like a tire with layers of rubber and cords that control growth. An internal jounce bumper inside the spring absorbs shock and eliminates harsh jarring on rough roads. The internal jounce bumper replaces the factory bumper and allows the air springs to safely be run at zero air pressure. LoadLifter 5000 Ultimate kits are recommended for most 3/4 and 1 ton pickups and SUVs with leaf springs, and provide up to 5,000 pounds of load-leveling support with air adjustability from 5-100 PSI. The kits are also used in motorhome rear kits and some motorhome fronts where leaf springs are used.

It is important to read and understand the entire installation guide before beginning installation or performing any maintenance, service or repair. The information here includes a hardware list, tool list, step-by-step installation information, maintenance tips, safety information and a troubleshooting guide.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

The installation of this kit does not alter the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or payload of the vehicle. Check your vehicle's owner's manual and do not exceed the maximum load listed for your vehicle.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating: The maximum allowable weight of the fully loaded vehicle (including passengers and cargo). This number — along with other weight limits, as well as tire, rim size and inflation pressure data — is shown on the vehicle's Safety Compliance Certification Label.

Payload: The combined, maximum allowable weight of cargo and passengers that the vehicle is designed to carry. Payload is GVWR minus the Base Curb Weight.

NOTATION EXPLANATION

Hazard notations appear in various locations in this publication. Information which is highlighted by one of these notations must be observed to help minimize risk of personal injury or possible improper installation which may render the vehicle unsafe. Notes are used to help emphasize areas of procedural importance and provide helpful suggestions. The following definitions explain the use of these notations as they appear throughout this guide.

INDICATES IMMEDIATE HAZARDS WHICH WILL RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

INDICATES HAZARDS OR UNSAFE PRACTICES WHICH COULD RESULT IN DAMAGE TO THE MACHINE OR MINOR PERSONAL INJURY.

A CAUTION

DANGER

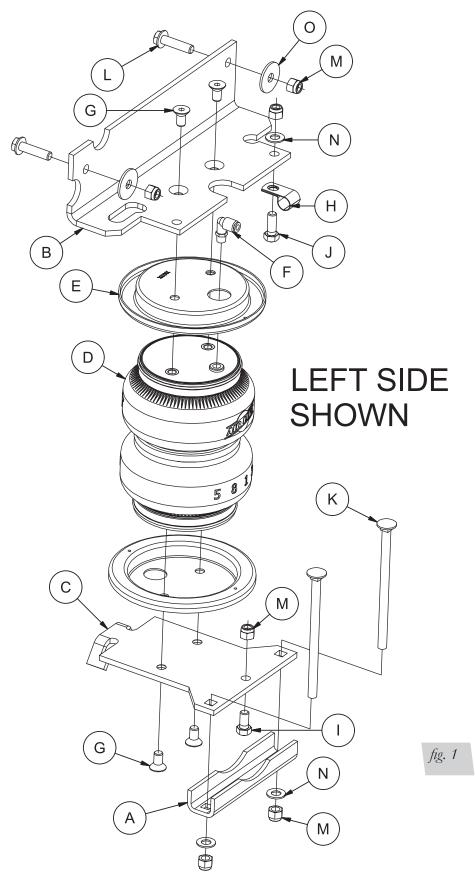
WARNING

NOTE

Indicates a procedure, practice or hint which is important to highlight.



Installation Diagram





HARDWARE LIST

Item	Part #	DescriptionQty	Item	Part #	DescriptionQty	
Α	01531	Clamp bar2	М	18435	3/8-16 nyloc nut11	
В	07043	Upper bracket2	Ν	18444	3/8" flat washer6	
С	03063	Lower bracket2	0	18447	3/8" large flat washer4	
D	58496	Air spring2	Р	18501	5/16" flat washer8	
E	11967	Roll plate4	AA*	20086	Air line assembly1	
F	21837	90° swivel fitting2	BB*	10466	Tie strap6	
G	17215	3/8"-24 x 34" flat head screw	CC*	21230	Valve cap2	
н	10181	Frame clamp1	DD*	18501	5/16" flat washer2	
1	17101	3/8-16 x 3/4" hex bolt2	EE*	21234	Rubber washer2	
J	17107	3/8-16 x 1" hex bolt1	FF*	18411	Star washer2	
К	17133	3/8"-16 x 6" carriage bolt4	GG*	21233	5/16" hex nut4	
L	17159	3/8"-16 x 1.5" hex flange bolt4				
		3	*Not shown in fig. 1.			

TOOLS LIST

DescriptionQtyHoist or floor jacks1Safety stands2Safety glasses1Vise grips24" grinder or metal cutting tool1Torque wrench1Standard open-end combo wrenches1Ratchet1Metric and standard sockets1	DescriptionQty7/32 allen wrench (socket if available)13/8" and 5/16" drill bits (very sharp)1Heavy duty drill1Hose cutter, razor blade, or sharp knife1Air compressor or compressed air source1Spray bottle with dish soap/water solution1Black paint or undercoating1
Metric and standard sockets 1	

DANGER

Installing the LoadLifter 5000 Ultimate System

GETTING STARTED

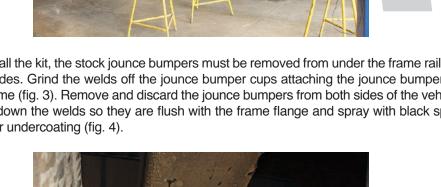
COMPRESSED AIR CAN CAUSE INJURY AND DAMAGE TO THE VEHICLE AND PARTS IF IT IS NOT HANDLED PROPERLY. FOR YOUR SAFETY, DO NOT TRY TO INFLATE THE AIR SPRINGS UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN PROPERLY SECURED TO THE VEHICLE.

- 1. Raise the vehicle and support it using jack stands or equivalent method so that the axle can be dropped safely away from the frame. This will need to be done so the air spring assemblies may be put into position between the axle and frame (fig. 2 shows the frame being supported with the vehicle on a drive-on hoist.).
- 2. Remove the rear tires and wheels.

3. To install the kit, the stock jounce bumpers must be removed from under the frame rails on both sides. Grind the welds off the jounce bumper cups attaching the jounce bumpers to the frame (fig. 3). Remove and discard the jounce bumpers from both sides of the vehicle. Grind down the welds so they are flush with the frame flange and spray with black spray paint or undercoating (fig. 4).



fig. 2







Grind remaining weld flush to the frame flange.

fig. 4

ASSEMBLING THE AIR SPRINGS

1. Set a roll plate (E) over the top of the bellows (D) (fig. 5).

The radius (rounded) edge of the roll plate (E) will be towards the air spring, so that the air spring is seated inside both roll plates.

2. Install the 90° swivel fitting (F) into the top of the bellows, finger tight plus one and a half turns.



fig. 5

3. Set the upper bracket (B) onto the bellows assembly and attach it with two flat head screws (G) (fig. 6). Torque to no more than 20 ft-lbs. Repeat for both air spring assemblies.



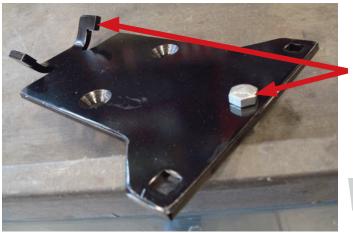
fig. 6

NOTE

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4. Install the 3/8" bolt (I) in the lower bracket (C) making sure the head is on the same side as the flanges are (fig. 7). Cap with a nyloc nut (M) and torque to 20 ft-lbs. Repeat for both lower brackets.



The head of the bolt must be on the same side as the flanges on the lower bracket.

fig. 7

5. Set a roll plate over the bottom of the air spring assembly and install the lower bracket making sure the flanges on the lower bracket are on the same side as the flange on the upper bracket (fig. 8). Attach them with two flat head screws (G) and torque to no more than 20 ft-lbs. Repeat for both air spring assemblies.



Make sure the flange on the lower bracket is on the same side as the flange on the upper bracket.

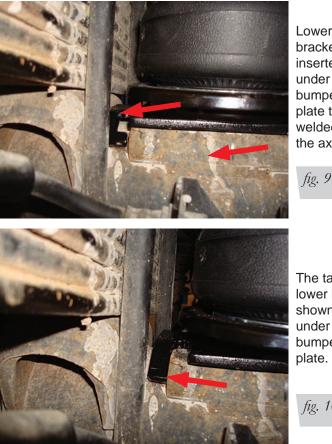
fig. 8



INSTALLING THE ASSEMBLIES

- 1. If you have not already done so, lower the axle down low enough to install the air spring assembly into position between the axle and frame. Set the assembly into position on both sides of the vehicle. The flange on the upper bracket will go on the outside of the frame rail.
- 2. Push the lower bracket inboard so that the tabs that are on the outside of the lower brackets will index under the jounce bumper strike plate (figs. 9 and 10).

It may be necessary to bend the tabs on the bracket slightly if they don't line up properly to index under the strike plate.



Lower bracket tab inserted under jounce bumper strike plate that is welded onto the axle.

The tabs in the lower bracket shown in position under the jounce bumper strike plate. fig. 10

3. Insert two 3/8" long carriage bolts (K) down through the square holes in the lower bracket and install the clamp bar (A) over them (figs. 1 and 11). Cap with two 3/8" flat washers (N) and two 3/8" nyloc nuts (M). Tighten both evenly to 10 ft-lbs. Repeat for both sides. Figure 12 shows the lower bracket installed on the right (passenger) side.

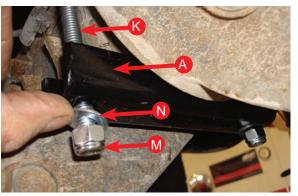


fig. 11

NOTE





Right (passenger) side lower bracket installation

fig. 12

4. On the inside of the driver side frame above the axle, it will be necessary to unbolt the fuel line holders and pull the fuel lines (if so equipped) away from the frame rail in order to drill the two holes needed to install the upper bracket (fig. 13).



Unbolt and pull the fuel lines away from the frame to gain clearance to drill the holes needed to install the upper bracket.

fig. 13

5. Raise the axle or lower the frame and align the upper bracket on the frame rail so that the air spring is perpendicular to the upper and lower bracket.

NOTE

On late model vehicles, there are ABS lines with line holders that may limit this alignment. Align as best you can with these models.

6. Clamp the flange of the upper bracket to the frame with two sets of vise grips, forward and behind the axle, making sure the upper bracket is flat against the side of the frame rail (fig. 14).



Clamp the bracket to the frame flange with vise grips making sure the side of the bracket is flush against the frame.

fig. 14



A CAUTION

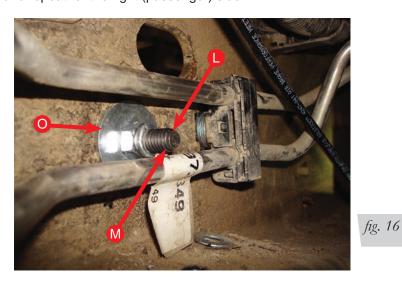
BEFORE DRILLING, CHECK THE BACK-SIDE OF THE FRAME FOR CLEARANCE ISSUES WITH THE BRAKE LINES, GAS LINES, AND ELECTRICAL LINES. ANY OBSTACLES WILL NEED TO BE TEMPORARILY RELOCATED TO CLEAR THE AREA.

7. With the fuel lines previously cleared out of the way on the inside of the left (driver) side frame and using the two holes on the side of the bracket as a template, drill the side of the frame using a 3/8" drill bit (fig. 15).

It may be necessary to drop the axle slightly to complete step 7.



 Attach the upper bracket to the frame using two 3/8" flange bolts (L), two 3/8" large flat washers (O) and two 3/8" nyloc nuts (M) (figs. 1 and 16). Torque to 44 ft-lbs. Remove vice grips and repeat for the right (passenger) side.





9. Before installing the fuel line rail back on the frame, stack up four 5/16" washers (P) and put them between the fuel line hangers (previously removed) and the frame and insert the studs back through the frame. Cap with the nut originally removed and tighten (fig. 17). This gives extra clearance between bolts and fuel lines to ensure they are not rubbing in any way.

🗥 CAUTION

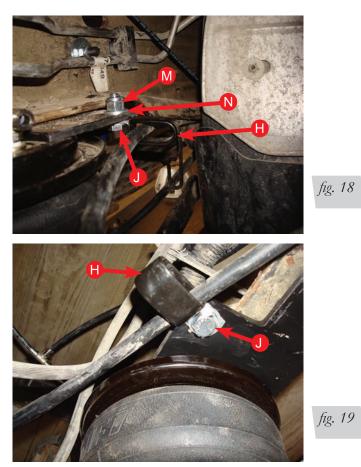
IN NO WAY SHOULD THE BOLTS INSTALLED RUB ON THE FUEL LINES. CORRECT THIS CONDITION BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE INSTALLATION.



4 X 5/16" washers (P) stacked up behind line holder's in the front and in the rear of axle.

fig. 17

10. Insert the emergency brake cable, on the left (driver) side above the axle, into the P-clamp (H) and install the P-clamp onto the front inside corner hole of the upper bracket as shown in figures 1 and 18 using one 3/8" bolt (J) one 3/8" flat washer (N) and 3/8" nyloc nut (M). Figure 19 shows an alternate installed view.



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.

Whatever the chosen location is, make sure there is enough clearance around the inflation valves for an air chuck.

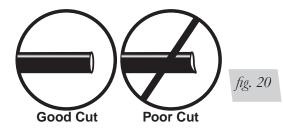
- 2. Drill a 5/16" hole to install the inflation valves.
- 3. Cut the air line assembly (AA) in two equal lengths.

CAUTION

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NOTE

WHEN CUTTING OR TRIMMING THE AIR LINE, USE A HOSE CUTTER, A RAZOR BLADE OR A SHARP KNIFE. A CLEAN, SQUARE CUT WILL PREVENT LEAKS. 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 (FIG. 20).



4. After cutting the hose to length on the passenger side, slide the hose heat shield over the air line before inserting into the fitting. Using a tie strap, tie it to the front inside hole in the upper bracket as shown in figure 21.

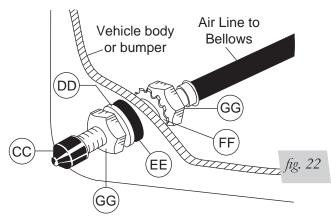


Hose heat

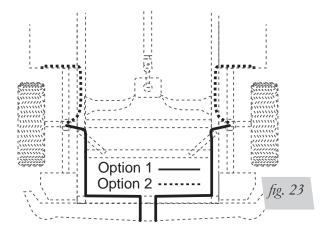
Tie strapped to the upper existing hole.



- 5. Place a 5/16" hex 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 5/16" hex nut (GG) and valve cap (CC). There should be enough valve exposed after installation approximately 1/2" to easily apply a pressure gauge or an air chuck (fig. 22).
- 6. Push the inflation valve through the hole and use the rubber washer (EE), flat washer (DD), and another 5/16" hex nut (GG). Tighten the nuts to secure the assembly in place (fig. 22).



7. Route the air line along the frame to the air fitting on the air spring (fig. 23). 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. Be sure that the tie straps are tight, but do not pinch the air line. Leave at least 2" of slack to allow for any movement that might pull on the air line.



 Cut off air line, leaving approximately 12" of extra air line. A clean square cut will ensure that the line will not leak (see fig. 20). Insert the air line into the air fitting. This is a pushto-connect fitting. Simply push the air line into the 90° swivel fitting until it bottoms out (9/16" of air line should be in the fitting).



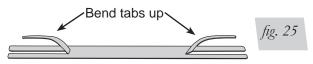
INSTALLING THE HEAT SHIELD

NOTE

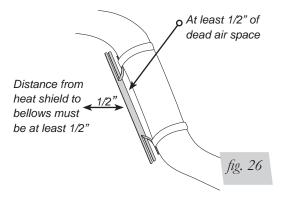
Finished photo of heat shield installed on right-side (passenger) exhaust (Fig. 24).



1. Bend the tabs on the heat shield to provide a 1/2" dead air space between exhaust pipe and heat shield (fig. 25).



2. Attach the heat shield to the exhaust pipe using the clamps (fig. 26). Bend the heat shield for maximum clearance to the air spring.



FINISHING UP THE INSTALLATION

- 1. Re-attach the tires back onto the vehicle and torque lug nuts to the manufacture's torque specifications.
- 2. Remove the jack stands or equivalent.



CHECKING FOR LEAKS

- 1. Inflate the air spring to 30 PSI and spray all connections and the inflation valves with a solution of 1/5 liquid dish soap and 4/5 water to check for leaks. Spot leaks easily by looking for bubbles in the soapy water.
- 2. After the test, deflate the springs to the minimum pressure required to restore the normal ride height, no less than 5 PSI.
- 3. Check the air pressure again after 24 hours. A 2-4 PSI loss after initial installation is normal. Retest for leaks if the loss is more than 5 lbs.

FIXING LEAKS

- 1. If there is a problem with the swivel fitting:
 - 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 (see fig. 20). Reinsert the air line into the push-to-connect fitting.
 - b. Check the threaded connection by tightening the swivel fitting another 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.
- 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 by removing the air line from the barbed type fitting.

A CAUTION

DO NOT CUT THE AIR LINE COMPLETELY OFF AS THIS WILL NICK THE BARB AND RENDER THE FITTING USELESS.



INSTALLATION CHECKLIST (To be completed by installer)

- □ Clearance test Inflate the air springs to 60 PSI and ensure there is at least 1/2" clearance around each bellow, away from anything that might rub against them. Be sure to check the tire, brake drum, frame, shock absorbers and brake cables.
- □ Leak test before road test Inflate the air springs to 60 PSI, check all connections for leaks with a soapy water solution. See the *Checking for Leaks* section for tips on how to spot leaks. All leaks must be eliminated before the vehicle is road tested.
- □ Fastener test Recheck all bolts for proper torque. Retorque after 100 miles.
- Road test The vehicle should be road tested after the preceding tests. Inflate the air springs to 25 PSI (50 PSI if the vehicle is loaded). Drive the vehicle 10 miles and recheck for clearance, loose fasteners and air leaks.
- Operating instructions If professionally installed, the installer should review the *Product* Use, Maintenance and Servicing section with the owner. Be sure to provide the owner with all of the paperwork which came with the kit.

Technician's Signature ____

Date

POST-INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- Overnight leak down test Recheck air pressure after the vehicle has been used for 24 hours. If the pressure has dropped more than 5 PSI, then there is a leak that must be fixed. Either fix the leak yourself or return to the installer for service.
- □ Air pressure requirements Regardless of load, the air pressure should always be adjusted to maintain ride height at all times.
- □ Thirty day or 500 mile test —Recheck the air spring system after 30 days or 500 miles, whichever comes first. If any part shows signs of rubbing or abrasion, the source should be identified and moved, if possible. If it is not possible to relocate the cause of the abrasion, the air spring may need to be remounted. If professionally installed, the installer should be consulted. Check all fasteners for tightness.

Product Use, Maintenance and Servicing

Minimum Recommended Pressure

Maximum Air Pressure

5 PSI

100 PSI

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MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

NOTE

By following the steps below, 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 PSI.
- 3. If you develop an air leak in the system, use a soapy water solution (1/5 liquid dish soap and 4/5 water) to check all air line connections and the inflation valve core before deflating and removing the air spring.

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO YOUR VEHICLE, DO CAUTION 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 PSI, THE AIR PRESSURE ACTUALLY NEEDED IS DEPENDANT ON YOUR LOAD AND GVWR.

- 4. Loaded vehicles require at least 25 PSI or more. A "loaded vehicle" refers to a vehicle with a heavy bed load, a trailer, or both. As discussed above, never exceed GVWR, regardless of air spring, air pressure, or other load assist. The springs in this kit will support approximately 40 lbs. of load (combined on both springs) for each 1 PSI of pressure. The required air pressure will vary depending on the state of the original suspension. Operating the vehicle below the minimum air spring pressure will void the Air Lift warranty.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Always add air to springs in small quantities, checking the pressure frequently.
- 7. Should it become necessary to raise the vehicle by the frame, make sure the system is at minimum pressure (5 PSI) to reduce the tension on the suspension/brake components. Use of on board leveling systems do not require deflation or disconnection.
- 8. Periodically check the air spring system fasteners for tightness. Also, check the air springs for any signs of rubbing. Realign if necessary.
- 9. On occasion, give the air springs a hard spray with a garden hose in order to remove mud, sand, gravel or other abrasive debris.

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

- 1. Leak test the air line connections, the threaded connection into the air spring, and all fittings in the control system.
- 2. Inspect the air lines to be sure none are pinched. Tie straps may be too tight. Loosen or replace the strap and replace leaking components.
- 3. Inspect the air line for holes and cracks. Replace as needed.
- 4. Look for a kink or fold in the air line. Reroute as needed.

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 times and how much pressure will they need?

For LoadLifter 5000 Ultimate, the recommended minimum air pressure is 5 PSI, but it can safely be run at zero air pressure.

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

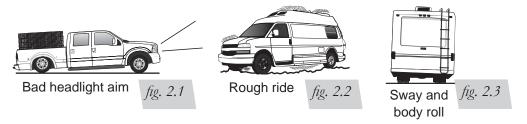
If the vehicle's headlights are shining into the trees or the vehicle is leaning to one side, then it is not level (fig. 2.1). Raise the air pressure to correct either of these problems and level the vehicle.

2. Ride comfort

If the vehicle has a rough or harsh ride it may be due to either too much pressure or not enough (fig. 2.2). 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. 2.3). Tuning out these problems usually requires an increase in pressure.

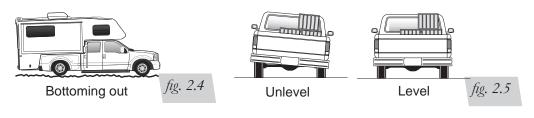


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GUIDELINES FOR ADDING AIR

- 1. Start with the vehicle level or slightly above.
- 2. When in doubt, always add air.
- 3. If the front of the vehicle dives while braking, increase the pressure in the front air bags, if equipped.
- 4. If it is ever suspected that the air bags have bottomed out, increase the pressure (fig. 2.4).
- 5. Adjust the pressure up and down to find the best ride.
- 6. If the vehicle rocks and rolls, adjust the air pressure to reduce movement.
- 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. 2.5). As much as a 50 PSI difference is not uncommon.





Choosing the Right On-Board Air Compressor System



Add an on-board air compressor sytem to inflate and deflate your air springs with the touch of a button — from inside or outside of the vehicle.



- For convenient, on-the-go control of your air springs, add an Air Lift on-board air compressor system.
- Air Lift on-board air compressor systems eliminate the search for gas stations that have a working compressor, saving you time, energy and money.
- All systems include a compressor, controller and all parts needed for easy installation.
- 1. Choose single or dual path inflation (see illustrations at right)

2. Choose wireless or analog control

- Wireless: Control your air springs from inside or outside the vehicle. Easiest installation no wires to the cab.
- **Analog:** In-cab control of your air springs. Economically priced.

3. Choose heavy or standard duty compressor

- **Standard duty:** A standard duty compressor will work well for most customers who use their system on an intermittent basis.
- **Heavy duty:** For daily use, consider the heavy duty compressor - it inflates faster and more quietly than the standard compressor.



Dual path systems Air springs are controlled separately to allow for different air pressure from side-to-side. Perfect for uneven or top-heavy loads.



Single path systems Two springs will inflate at the same time. Good for loads that are evenly distributed from left-toright or front-to-back.

