

HOW TO PRIME A HEAVY DUTY SHOCK

Occasionally, shocks are misdiagnosed as faulty when removed from the box for installation. On the initial stroke of the product, you may notice a dead band or erratic damping at the top of the stroke of the shock. This is a normal occurrence, and the shock will function properly once it has been primed.

This characteristic occurs in all heavy duty shocks because they lie on their sides during shipping and storage. Over time, the oil and gas inside the unit move between chambers while the product lies on its side. When the oil and gas are mixed in the working chamber, the damping effect may be irregular. Priming the unit removes the gas from the working chamber and moves it back into the reservoir. This is a normal operation that occurs once shocks are installed in their upright position in the vehicle.

Gabriel shocks are all self-priming once installed, so manual priming is not necessary. Dampers will quickly self-prime with normal vehicle movement. However, if you or your customers are in doubt, you can easily prime a shock prior to installation. In order to manually prime a shock, please do the following:

1. Stand shock vertically with the piston rod pointing up. Extend the rod to its full extended position.
2. Compress piston rod into unit using a mechanical device or pushing with hands and body weight until fully compressed (do not use excessive force to compress unit due to the potential of damaging the valving in the unit). Then, full extend the shock.
3. Repeat this process 2 to 3 times until you feel full resistance through entire range of the stroke
4. Shock is now primed and ready for installation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Gabriel AnswerGarage tech services at 800-999-3903, and we will gladly assist you.



SCAN TO WATCH!

Watch a video on how to manually
prime a Gabriel heavy duty
shock absorber