

# 05092024

## VISUAL DIFFERENCES OF MISTING & LEAKING SHOCKS

Misting shocks generally show a light, even layer of grimy film:

Leaking shocks show streams of fluid down the shock body, most easily seen when the shock is **fully extended**:



**Remember, if it's *STREAKING*, it's *LEAKING!***

### What's the difference between a misting and leaking shock?

Misting is a natural occurrence in a working shock. As the temperature of the shock increases, an ultra-fine amount of fluid adheres to the piston as it's pulled past the oil seal. When the evaporated fluid reaches the cooler outside air, it forms a film or "mist" on the outside of the shock body. Mist often mixes with dirt and dust to form a grimy film on the shock. This natural process is normal and should not be diagnosed as a failure - but ultimately a heat test is needed to confirm.

### Why is misting normal and necessary?

The presence of a slight film of shock fluid on the piston rod is essential to lubricate the piston rod and seal for extended service life. This prevents the natural friction generated by the working shock from melting the seal.

### SCAN TO WATCH

**MISTING VS. LEAKING VIDEO**

**THE GABRIEL® HEAT TEST**

