

HOW TO PRIME A HEAVY DUTY SHOCK

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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 proper upright position in the vehicle.

Gabriel shocks are all self-priming, 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. Invert the damper to the rod down position. Compress piston rod into unit using a mechanical devise 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).
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 three to five times until you feel full resistance through entire range of stroke.
4. Shock is now primed, ready for installation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Gabriel Answerman Tech Line for technical assistance at 1-800-999-3903, and we will gladly assist you.

Please scan QR code to watch Gabriel's How to Prime a Shock Absorber video:

