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Monroe 71686

Monroe OESpectrum 71686 Suspension Strut Instruction Manual

MODEL: 71686



Image: Monroe OESpectrum 71686 Suspension Strut, a single black strut with a mounting nut at the bottom.

Introduction

The Monroe OESpectrum 71686 Suspension Strut is engineered to restore a vehicle's original factory drivability and performance. This component provides an exceptional level of handling precision and control, while effectively filtering out noise, vibration, and harshness. It is designed for specific vehicle applications to ensure optimal fit and function.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: An overview of Monroe Shocks & Struts, highlighting their commitment to quality and performance.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video: Detailed features of Monroe OESpectrum Shocks, emphasizing their unique construction and benefits.

Key Features

- **Reduced Noise, Vibration, and Harshness:** The Twin Technology Active Control System delivers exceptional control under most driving conditions while isolating impact-related noise, vibration, and harshness.



Image: Graphic highlighting 'Reduced Noise, Vibration and Harshness' with two cars in the background.

- **Exceptional Handling:** Rod displaced valving, tuned specifically to each vehicle, adjusts to road extremes to provide consistency and a smooth ride (on most applications).



Image: Two Monroe OESpectrum struts, illustrating the internal components responsible for exceptional handling.

- **Consistent Ride:** OE all-weather fluid contains special additives to assist with extreme temperatures and help reduce oil breakdown.



Image: Cutaway diagram of a strut showing the flow of OE all-weather fluid for consistent ride.

- **Control and Durability:** Fluon-banded piston provides consistent sealing between piston and pressure tube for better control and increased durability.



Image: Detailed view of a Monroe OESpectrum strut, emphasizing the Fluon-banded piston for control and durability.

- **Improves Performance:** Nitrogen gas charge maintains tire-to-road contact for improved ride and handling by reducing aeration (on most applications).



Image: Two Monroe OESpectrum struts, illustrating their role in improving overall vehicle performance.

- **Longer Service Life:** Chrome-plated piston, bronze reinforced rod guide bearing and special single lip seal provide durability and longer service life (where applicable).
- **Optional Dust Boot/Jounce Bumper:** Protective dust boot reduces dirt and moisture, while jounce bumper reduces severe suspension movement (both sold separately).

Installation Guidelines

Installation of suspension components requires specialized tools and knowledge. It is highly recommended that the Monroe OESpectrum 71686 Suspension Strut be installed by a qualified automotive technician. Improper installation can lead to vehicle damage, reduced performance, and safety hazards.
General steps for strut replacement typically include:

1. Safely lift and support the vehicle.
2. Remove the wheel and tire assembly.
3. Disconnect brake lines, ABS sensors, and sway bar links as necessary.
4. Unbolt the lower strut mount from the steering knuckle.
5. Remove the upper strut mount nuts from the vehicle chassis.

6. Carefully remove the old strut assembly.
7. Install the new Monroe OESpectrum 71686 Strut, ensuring all bolts are torqued to manufacturer specifications.
8. Reassemble all disconnected components.
9. Lower the vehicle and perform a wheel alignment.

Refer to your vehicle's service manual for specific torque specifications and detailed procedures.

Operating Principles

The Monroe OESpectrum 71686 Suspension Strut functions as a critical component of your vehicle's suspension system. It combines the damping action of a shock absorber with the structural support of a coil spring (if applicable to the specific vehicle's design). The strut's internal valving system controls the movement of hydraulic fluid, which in turn dampens spring oscillations and absorbs road impacts. This control is essential for maintaining tire contact with the road, ensuring stable handling, and providing a comfortable ride. The nitrogen gas charge helps to reduce fluid aeration, maintaining consistent damping performance even under demanding conditions.

Maintenance

Regular inspection of your vehicle's suspension components, including the Monroe OESpectrum 71686 Strut, is crucial for safety and performance. Look for the following signs of wear or damage:

- Fluid leaks from the strut body.
- Excessive bouncing or swaying of the vehicle.
- Uneven tire wear.
- Nose dive during braking or excessive squat during acceleration.
- Visible damage to the strut body, mounting points, or associated components.

If any of these symptoms are observed, have your vehicle inspected by a qualified technician. While the strut itself is a sealed unit and does not require internal maintenance, ensuring proper alignment after replacement and checking surrounding components (like dust boots and jounce bumpers) will contribute to its longevity.

Troubleshooting

If you experience issues after installing or while using your Monroe OESpectrum 71686 Strut, consider the following common troubleshooting points:

- **Excessive Noise:** Check for loose mounting bolts, worn bushings, or interference with other suspension components. Ensure all components are properly torqued.
- **Poor Ride Quality (too stiff or too soft):**Verify that the correct strut model was installed for your specific vehicle. Ensure no other suspension components are worn or damaged, affecting the strut's performance.
- **Vehicle Pulling to One Side:**This often indicates an alignment issue. A professional wheel alignment is required after strut replacement. Also, check for uneven tire pressure or other worn steering/suspension components.
- **Visible Damage or Leaks:** If the strut shows signs of physical damage or fluid leakage, it may be defective or improperly installed. Contact your installer or Monroe customer support for assistance.

Always consult a professional technician for diagnosis and repair of complex suspension issues.

Product Specifications

Specification	Detail
Brand	Monroe
Model Number	71686
Auto Part Position	Rear
Style	Modern
Vehicle Service Type	Truck
Exterior Finish	Machined
Material	Alloy Steel
Item Weight	2.2 pounds
Product Dimensions	23.4 x 5.8 x 5.9 inches
UPC	048598052605
Date First Available	November 23, 2005

Warranty and Support

The Monroe OESpectrum 71686 Suspension Strut comes with Monroe's Limited Lifetime Warranty and an exclusive Feel the Difference Guarantee. For detailed warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the official Monroe website or contact their customer service.
For technical support, installation inquiries, or warranty claims, please visit the official Monroe website or contact their customer support line. Always provide your product model number (71686) and purchase information when seeking assistance.

Safety Information

WARNING: This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information, go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.
Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling automotive parts and performing installation or maintenance. Ensure the vehicle is securely supported before working underneath it. Follow all safety guidelines provided by your vehicle manufacturer and tool manufacturers.

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