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› Spicer 40773 Axle Shaft Seal Instruction Manual

## Spicer 40773

# Spicer 40773 Axle Shaft Seal Instruction Manual

## 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

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### 1.1 Product Description

The Spicer 40773 Axle Shaft Seal is an original equipment (OE) replacement component. It is engineered and manufactured to meet or exceed original equipment manufacturer (OEM) requirements, ensuring a precise fit and contributing to the longevity and performance of your vehicle's axle system.

### 1.2 What's Included

- 1 x Spicer 40773 Axle Shaft Seal

### 1.3 Vehicle Compatibility

This axle shaft seal is compatible with various Ford, Mazda, and Mercury models. Please verify fitment with your vehicle's specific year and model before installation:

- **Ford:** Aerostar (1990-1997), Bronco (1980-1996), Explorer (1991-1996), F-150 (1980-1996), F-250 (1980-1998), F-350 (1980-1986), Ranger (1990-1997)
- **Mazda:** B3000 (1994-1996), B4000 (1994-1997)
- **Mercury:** Mountaineer (1997)



Image of the Spicer 40773 Axle Shaft Seal, a circular component designed to prevent lubricant leakage from the axle housing.

## 2. INSTALLATION GUIDE

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Proper installation is crucial for the performance and longevity of the axle shaft seal. If you are not experienced with automotive repairs, it is recommended to seek professional assistance.

### 2.1 Safety Precautions

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety glasses and gloves.
- Ensure the vehicle is securely supported on a level surface using jack stands before working underneath.
- Disconnect the battery's negative terminal to prevent accidental electrical discharge.
- Consult your vehicle's specific service manual for detailed instructions and torque specifications.

### 2.2 Required Tools

- Vehicle jack and jack stands

- Wheel lug wrench
- Socket and wrench set
- Brake caliper tools (if applicable)
- Axle shaft puller (if required)
- Seal puller
- Seal installer tool (recommended for proper seating)
- Torque wrench
- Clean rags and brake cleaner
- New differential fluid (if draining is necessary)

## 2.3 Installation Steps (General)

1. **Prepare the Vehicle:** Lift the vehicle and secure it on jack stands. Remove the rear wheel(s) corresponding to the axle seal being replaced.
2. **Access the Axle:** Remove the brake caliper, rotor, and any other components obstructing access to the axle shaft.
3. **Remove Axle Shaft:** Depending on the axle design, you may need to remove the differential cover and C-clip, or unbolt the axle flange. Carefully slide the axle shaft out of the housing.
4. **Remove Old Seal:** Use a seal puller or a suitable pry tool to carefully remove the old axle shaft seal from the axle housing. Be cautious not to damage the housing bore or the axle shaft bearing surface.
5. **Inspect and Clean:** Thoroughly clean the seal bore in the axle housing. Inspect the axle shaft and bearing for any wear, pitting, or damage. Address any issues before proceeding.
6. **Install New Seal:** Apply a thin coat of clean differential fluid or grease to the lip of the new Spicer 40773 Axle Shaft Seal. Using a seal installer tool, carefully tap the new seal into the housing bore until it is fully seated and flush. Ensure it is not cocked or damaged during installation.
7. **Reassemble:** Reinstall the axle shaft, ensuring it slides smoothly into place. Reattach any removed brake components, the differential cover (if applicable, with a new gasket and fluid), and the wheel.
8. **Check Fluid Levels:** If differential fluid was drained, refill it to the manufacturer's recommended level with the correct type of fluid.
9. **Final Check:** Lower the vehicle. Pump the brake pedal several times to restore pressure. Test drive the vehicle at low speeds, listening for any abnormal noises and checking for fluid leaks.

## 3. OPERATION

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The axle shaft seal functions as a barrier, preventing lubricating fluid from escaping the axle housing. It also acts as a protective measure, keeping contaminants such as dirt, water, and debris from entering the axle assembly and damaging critical components like axle bearings. Once installed, the seal operates continuously as part of the vehicle's drivetrain, maintaining a clean and lubricated environment for optimal axle performance.

## 4. MAINTENANCE

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Axle shaft seals are wear items and do not typically require routine maintenance beyond visual inspection. However, regular checks can help identify potential issues early:

- **Visual Inspection:** Periodically inspect the area around the axle housing and wheel for any signs of fluid leakage. A dark, oily residue or drips indicate a failing seal.
- **Fluid Level Check:** Ensure differential fluid levels are maintained according to your vehicle manufacturer's recommendations. Low fluid levels can indicate a leak, and insufficient lubrication can lead to premature seal failure.
- **Prompt Replacement:** If any signs of leakage are observed, replace the axle shaft seal promptly to prevent further damage to axle bearings and other drivetrain components.

## 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

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### 5.1 Common Issues and Solutions

Issue	Possible Cause	Solution
Fluid Leakage from Axle	Damaged or improperly installed seal; Worn axle bearing; Damaged axle shaft surface.	Inspect the seal for damage and ensure correct installation. Check axle bearings and shaft for wear or damage. Replace affected components as necessary.
Premature Seal Wear	Incorrect seal type; Improper installation (e.g., cocked seal, damaged lip); Rough or grooved axle shaft surface; Contamination.	Verify the correct part number for your vehicle. Ensure proper installation using a seal installer tool. Inspect the axle shaft for damage and repair or replace if needed. Ensure the area is clean during installation.
Noise from Axle Area	While not directly a seal issue, a failed seal can lead to low fluid levels and damaged axle bearings.	Check differential fluid level. Inspect axle bearings for wear or damage. Replace bearings and seals as required.

## 6. PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

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Specification	Detail
Manufacturer	Spicer
Brand	Spicer
Model	40773
Item Weight	0.704 ounces
Product Dimensions	2.8 x 2.8 x 1.3 inches
Item Model Number	40773
Manufacturer Part Number	40773
ASIN	B018OGG1Z4
Date First Available	November 29, 2015

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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For specific warranty information regarding the Spicer 40773 Axle Shaft Seal, please refer to the official Spicer website or contact their customer support directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

## 8. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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### 8.1 About Dana Spicer

Your browser does not support the video tag.

This video provides an overview of Dana Spicer, the manufacturer of this axle shaft seal, highlighting their history and commitment to quality in drivetrain components.

## 8.2 Related Products

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Image of Reinzosil RTV Silicone Gasket Maker, a product often used in conjunction with seals for enhanced sealing performance.