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> Dorman 936-342 Rear Driveshaft Assembly Instruction Manual

Dorman 936-342

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Instruction Manual

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Dorman 936-342 Rear Driveshaft Assembly is an OE FIX replacement part designed for specific BMW models. This assembly addresses a common issue with original driveshafts that have permanently staked universal joints, making servicing difficult. The Dorman OE FIX design incorporates serviceable U-joints, simplifying future maintenance. This driveshaft is manufactured new, ensuring no core charge or return hassle, and is shipped pre-assembled and factory balanced for immediate smooth operation upon installation.



Figure 1.1: Dorman 936-342 Rear Driveshaft Assembly

This image displays the complete Dorman 936-342 Rear Driveshaft Assembly, showcasing its full length and components, including the universal joints and mounting points at both ends.

2. KEY FEATURES

- **Ready to Install:** Shipped pre-assembled and factory balanced for immediate smooth operation.
- **Simplifies Repair:** Features serviceable universal joints (U-joints) for easier and more cost-effective maintenance compared to original equipment.
- **All-New Manufacturing:** Produced entirely new, eliminating the need for core charges or return processes associated with remanufactured parts.
- **Quality Engineering:** Designed in the United States, backed by extensive automotive aftermarket experience.



THE RIGHT DRIVE SHAFT FOR YOUR NEXT REPAIR



DRIVE SHAFTS



100%
NEW

Figure 2.1: Dorman OE FIX Driveshaft Advantages

This graphic highlights the key benefits of the Dorman OE FIX driveshaft, including serviceable U-joints, multi-piece design for shipping, and 100% new construction, emphasizing its superiority over factory-staked joints.

3. COMPATIBILITY

This Dorman 936-342 Rear Driveshaft Assembly is compatible with select BMW models. To ensure precise fitment for your vehicle, it is crucial to verify compatibility using the manufacturer's vehicle fitment tool or by cross-referencing the OEM part number.

Known compatible vehicles include:

- BMW M3: 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999

Always confirm fitment with your vehicle's specific make, model, and trim level before installation.

4. INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Warning: Driveshaft installation requires specialized tools and automotive knowledge. It is highly recommended that installation be performed by a certified professional mechanic to ensure proper function, safety, and to prevent damage to the vehicle or injury.

While the Dorman 936-342 is designed for simplified replacement, adherence to proper automotive repair procedures is essential. The following general steps are provided for informational purposes only and do not substitute for a professional service manual.

4.1 Pre-Installation Checks

- Verify the part number (936-342) matches your vehicle's requirements.
- Inspect the new driveshaft for any shipping damage.
- Ensure all necessary mounting hardware (not included with driveshaft) is available and in good condition.

4.2 Removal of Old Driveshaft

- Safely lift and support the vehicle on a level surface.
- Mark the orientation of the original driveshaft relative to the differential and transmission flanges to aid in proper alignment during reinstallation.
- Remove the mounting bolts from both ends of the driveshaft.
- Carefully detach and remove the old driveshaft from the vehicle.

4.3 Installation of New Driveshaft

- Clean all mating surfaces on the differential and transmission flanges.
- Carefully position the new Dorman 936-342 driveshaft, aligning it with the marks made during removal (if applicable, though this new assembly is balanced).
- Install and torque all mounting bolts to the vehicle manufacturer's specifications.
- Ensure proper clearance and freedom of movement for the driveshaft.



Figure 4.1: Driveshaft Flange Detail

This image provides a detailed view of one end of the driveshaft, showing the flange and bolt holes, which connect to the vehicle's differential or transmission.



Figure 4.2: Center Support Bearing and U-Joint

A close-up view of the driveshaft's center support bearing and a universal joint, illustrating the components that allow for flexibility and power transfer.

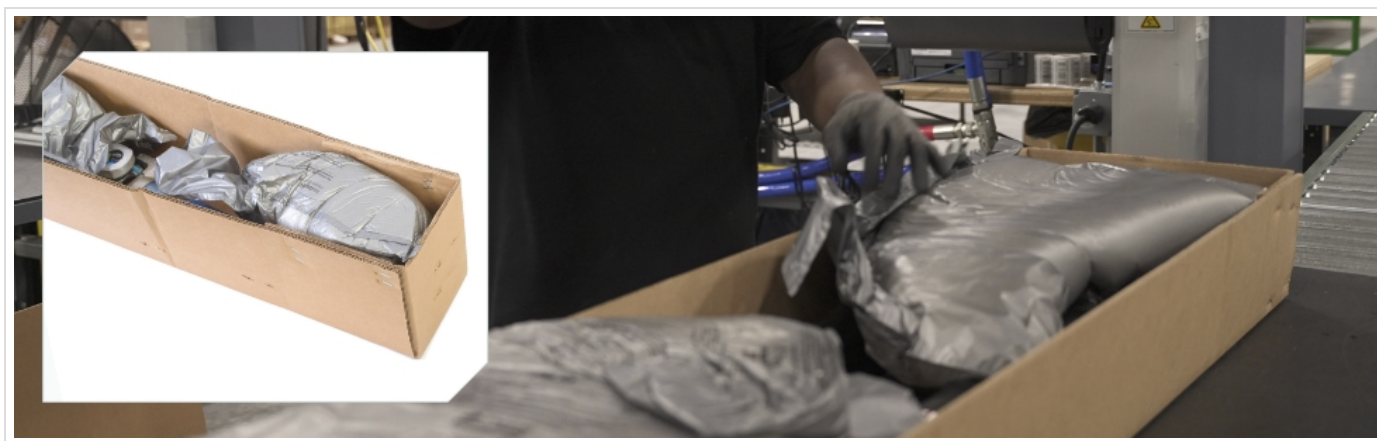


Figure 4.3: Secure Packaging

This image shows the driveshaft securely packaged in a box, highlighting the care taken to protect the component during shipping to ensure it arrives ready for installation.

5. OPERATING CONSIDERATIONS

Once properly installed, the Dorman 936-342 Rear Driveshaft Assembly operates as an integral part of your vehicle's drivetrain, transmitting power from the transmission to the differential. Due to its factory balancing, you should experience smooth and vibration-free operation. No direct user operation is required for this component.

6. MAINTENANCE

A significant advantage of the Dorman 936-342 driveshaft is its design with serviceable universal joints (U-joints). Unlike many original equipment driveshafts where U-joints are permanently staked and require full driveshaft replacement when worn, this Dorman OE FIX allows for individual U-joint replacement.

6.1 Routine Checks

- Periodically inspect the driveshaft for any signs of damage, dents, or corrosion.
- Check U-joints for excessive play, rust, or grease leakage.
- Inspect the center support bearing for signs of wear, cracking, or excessive movement.
- Ensure all mounting bolts remain tight and secure.

6.2 U-Joint Servicing

If U-joint wear is detected, they can be replaced. This process typically involves removing retaining clips, pressing out the old U-joint, and pressing in a new one. Consult a professional service manual for detailed steps and torque specifications for U-joint replacement.



Figure 6.1: Servicing a Universal Joint

This image shows a hand using pliers to service a universal joint, demonstrating the accessibility for maintenance on the Dorman OE FIX driveshaft.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

While the Dorman 936-342 driveshaft is designed for reliability, issues can sometimes arise. Most driveshaft-related problems manifest as vibrations or noises.

7.1 Common Symptoms and Potential Causes

Symptom	Potential Cause
Vibration (especially at certain speeds)	Unbalanced driveshaft (unlikely with new, balanced unit), worn U-joints, loose mounting bolts, worn center support bearing, bent driveshaft.
Clunking or Clicking Noise (especially during acceleration or shifting)	Worn U-joints, excessive play in splines, loose mounting bolts.
Squeaking or Chirping Noise	Lack of lubrication in U-joints (if applicable), worn U-joints.

7.2 Recommended Action

If you experience any of the above symptoms after installation, it is recommended to:

- Immediately have the vehicle inspected by a qualified mechanic.
- Do not continue driving if severe vibrations or noises are present, as this could lead to further damage or safety hazards.
- A professional can diagnose the exact cause and perform necessary repairs or adjustments.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Value
Manufacturer	Dorman Products
Brand	Dorman
Model	Dorman 936-342

Attribute	Value
Item Weight	16.95 pounds
Product Dimensions	65.5 x 7.75 x 7.5 inches
Item Model Number	936-342
Manufacturer Part Number	936-342
OEM Part Number	26112228212
Date First Available	March 10, 2016
What's in the Box	1 Driveshaft

9. SUPPORT AND WARRANTY

Dorman is committed to providing quality automotive aftermarket solutions. For over 100 years, Dorman has been driving new solutions for the motor vehicle aftermarket, releasing tens of thousands of replacement products engineered to save time and money, and increase convenience and reliability.

For specific warranty information, technical support, or to explore Dorman's full range of products, please visit the official Dorman website or contact their customer service directly. You can also visit the [Dorman Store on Amazon](#).



Figure 9.1: Built in the USA

This image shows a 'Built in the USA' sticker, indicating the domestic manufacturing and quality assurance of Dorman products.