Dorman 526-039

Dorman 526-039 Rear Driver Side Suspension Trailing Arm Instruction Manual

For Select Ford and Mercury Models

1. Product Overview

The Dorman 526-039 Rear Driver Side Suspension Trailing Arm is engineered as a direct replacement component for specific Ford and Mercury vehicles. This part is designed to restore the original equipment fit and function, contributing to passenger safety, smooth ride quality, and predictable vehicle handling. It undergoes rigorous testing to ensure reliable performance and durability.

Figure 1.1: Overall view of the Dorman 526-039 Rear Driver Side Suspension Trailing Arm. This image displays the complete component, highlighting its shape and design for vehicle suspension.

2. Key Features

- **Direct Replacement:** This suspension trailing arm is designed to fit and function precisely like the original

equipment part, ensuring seamless integration.

- **Quality Construction:** Manufactured from the same materials as the original equipment, ensuring safety and reliability in vehicle operation.
- **Durable Design:** Features a protective finish for enhanced corrosion resistance, contributing to a longer service life.
- **Quality Tested:** The component has undergone extensive testing to verify proper fitment and performance standards.
- **Vehicle Specific Fit:** Engineered for precise compatibility with specified vehicle models.

3. Vehicle Compatibility

The Dorman 526-039 Rear Driver Side Suspension Trailing Arm is compatible with the following vehicle models:

- **Ford Explorer Sport Trac:** 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
- **Ford Explorer:** 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
- **Mercury Mountaineer:** 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010

To confirm exact fitment for your specific vehicle trim, it is recommended to utilize a vehicle fitment tool or consult your vehicle's service manual.

4. Installation Guidelines

Important Safety Notice: Installation of suspension components requires specialized tools and knowledge. Improper installation can lead to vehicle instability, loss of control, and serious injury. It is highly recommended that this component be installed by a certified professional mechanic.

4.1. Required Tools and Materials (Typical)

- Vehicle lift or jack stands
- Wheel chocks
- Socket set and wrenches (metric/SAE as required)
- Torque wrench
- Pry bar (if needed)
- Penetrating lubricant
- Safety glasses and gloves

4.2. General Installation Steps

1. **Preparation:** Park the vehicle on a level surface, engage the parking brake, and place wheel chocks. Safely lift the vehicle and support it with jack stands. Remove the rear wheel on the driver's side.
2. **Locate Trailing Arm:** Identify the rear driver side trailing arm. It connects the rear axle to the vehicle's chassis.
3. **Remove Old Trailing Arm:** Loosen and remove the mounting bolts securing the trailing arm to both the chassis and the axle. It may be necessary to support the axle to relieve tension on the bolts. Carefully remove the old trailing arm.
4. **Install New Trailing Arm:** Position the new Dorman 526-039 trailing arm into place. Align the mounting holes and insert the bolts. Do not fully tighten the bolts at this stage.
5. **Final Tightening:** With the vehicle's weight on the suspension (or simulating ride height), tighten all mounting bolts to the manufacturer's specified torque values. This is crucial to prevent premature bushing wear.
6. **Reassembly:** Reinstall the wheel, lower the vehicle, and remove wheel chocks.
7. **Post-Installation Check:** It is recommended to have a wheel alignment performed after replacing suspension

components.

Figure 4.1: Close-up view of one end of the Dorman 526-039 trailing arm, showing the integrated bushing. Proper installation and torque are essential for bushing longevity.

5. Operation and Function

The trailing arm is a critical component of a vehicle's rear suspension system. Its primary function is to control the fore-and-aft movement of the wheel, maintaining proper wheel alignment and stability during acceleration, braking, and cornering. It helps to absorb road impacts and ensures the wheel remains in its correct position relative to the vehicle chassis, contributing to overall ride comfort and handling performance.

Figure 5.1: Angled view of the Dorman 526-039 trailing arm, illustrating its structural integrity and design for optimal suspension function.

6. Maintenance

The Dorman 526-039 trailing arm is designed for long-term durability and typically requires minimal maintenance. However, periodic inspection of suspension components is recommended as part of routine vehicle servicing.

- **Visual Inspection:** During oil changes or tire rotations, visually inspect the trailing arm for any signs of damage, bending, or corrosion.
- **Bushing Check:** Examine the rubber bushings at both ends of the trailing arm for cracks, tears, or excessive wear. Worn bushings can lead to clunking noises, poor handling, and premature tire wear.
- **Fastener Torque:** Periodically check the tightness of the mounting bolts. Loose fasteners can compromise safety and component lifespan.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the area around the trailing arm free from excessive dirt and debris, which can accelerate wear.

Figure 6.1: Detailed view of the Dorman 526-039 trailing arm's body, showing mounting points. Regular inspection of these areas is important for maintenance.

7. Troubleshooting

If you experience issues after installation or during the lifespan of the trailing arm, consider the following:

- **Noise (Clunking/Squeaking):**
  - Check all mounting bolts for proper torque.
  - Inspect bushings for wear or damage.
  - Ensure no other suspension components are loose or damaged.
- **Poor Handling/Uneven Tire Wear:**
  - Verify correct installation and torque specifications.
  - A wheel alignment is highly recommended after suspension work.
  - Inspect other suspension and steering components for wear.
- **Fitment Issues:**
  - Double-check the vehicle compatibility list and your specific vehicle's year, make, and model.
  - Ensure you have the correct side (driver side rear).
  - Confirm that the old part matches the new part before attempting installation.

If issues persist, consult a professional mechanic or contact Dorman customer support.

8. Specifications

Attribute	Detail
Brand	Dorman
Model Number	526-039
Part Position	Rear Driver Side (Rear Left)
Fit Type	Vehicle Specific Fit

Attribute	Detail
Color	Black
Item Weight	13.34 pounds
Product Dimensions	19.5 x 16.13 x 4.06 inches
Manufacturer Part Number	526-039
OEM Part Numbers	MK201405; 6L2Z5500AC; 6L2Z5500AL; 7L2Z5500A; 8L2Z5500AB; 8L2Z5500AD
UPC	194883325715
What's in the Box	1 Trailing Arm

Figure 8.1: Underside view of the Dorman 526-039 trailing arm, showing its structural channel and the second bushing. This view highlights the robust construction.

9. Warranty and Support

For specific warranty information regarding the Dorman 526-039 Rear Driver Side Suspension Trailing Arm, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Dorman Products website. For technical support, installation assistance, or any product-related inquiries, please contact Dorman customer service directly.

Dorman Products Official Website: www.dormanproducts.com