

# LoadLIFTER5000

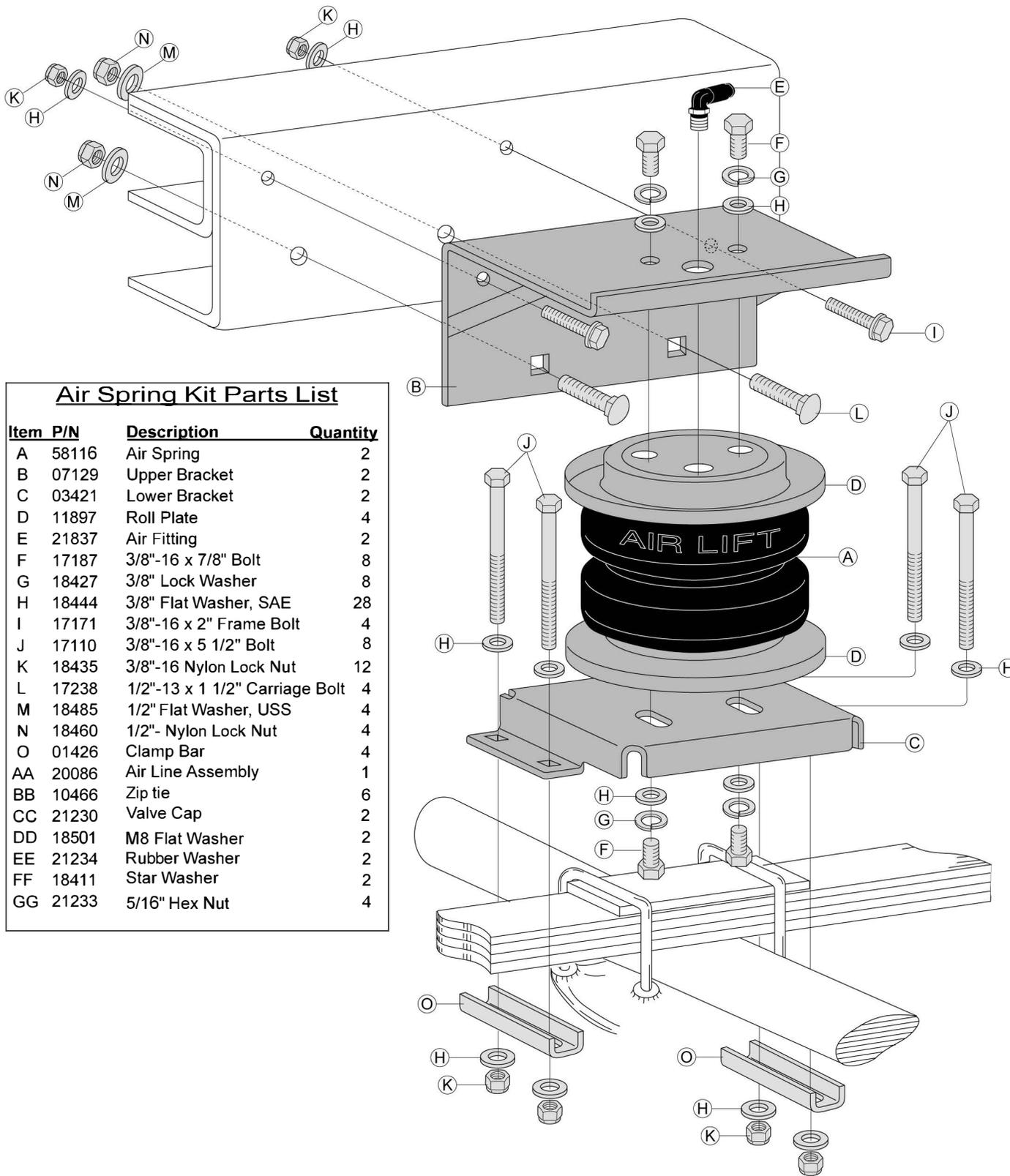
Kit No. 57362



www.airliftcompany.com

MN-491  
(022102)  
ECR 9273

Please read these instructions completely before proceeding with installation



## Air Spring Kit Parts List

Item	P/N	Description	Quantity
A	58116	Air Spring	2
B	07129	Upper Bracket	2
C	03421	Lower Bracket	2
D	11897	Roll Plate	4
E	21837	Air Fitting	2
F	17187	3/8"-16 x 7/8" Bolt	8
G	18427	3/8" Lock Washer	8
H	18444	3/8" Flat Washer, SAE	28
I	17171	3/8"-16 x 2" Frame Bolt	4
J	17110	3/8"-16 x 5 1/2" Bolt	8
K	18435	3/8"-16 Nylon Lock Nut	12
L	17238	1/2"-13 x 1 1/2" Carriage Bolt	4
M	18485	1/2" Flat Washer, USS	4
N	18460	1/2"- Nylon Lock Nut	4
O	01426	Clamp Bar	4
AA	20086	Air Line Assembly	1
BB	10466	Zip tie	6
CC	21230	Valve Cap	2
DD	18501	M8 Flat Washer	2
EE	21234	Rubber Washer	2
FF	18411	Star Washer	2
GG	21233	5/16" Hex Nut	4

Technical Support  
1-800-248-0892

## Tools Needed

1/2", 9/16" Open-end or box wrenches  
Adjustable wrench  
Ratchet with 9/16", 1/2" deep well sockets  
5/16" Drill bits (very sharp)  
Heavy duty drill  
Torque wrench  
Hose cutter, razor blade, or sharp knife

Hoist or floor jacks  
Safety stands  
Safety glasses  
Air compressor, or compressed air source  
Spray bottle with dish soap/water solution

**IMPORTANT:** Your vehicle may be equipped with a rear brake proportioning valve. Any type of load assist product could affect brake performance. We recommend that you check with your dealer before installing this type of product. If your vehicle DOES NOT have a rear brake proportioning valve or is equipped with an anti-lock type brake system, installation of a load assist product will have NO EFFECT ON BRAKE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE.

**IMPORTANT:** Failure to maintain correct minimum pressure (or pressure proportional to load), bottoming out, overextension, or rubbing against another component will void the warranty.

**DANGER:** Compressed air can cause injury and damage to the vehicle and parts if it is not handled properly. For your safety, do not try to inflate the air springs until they have been properly secured to the vehicle.

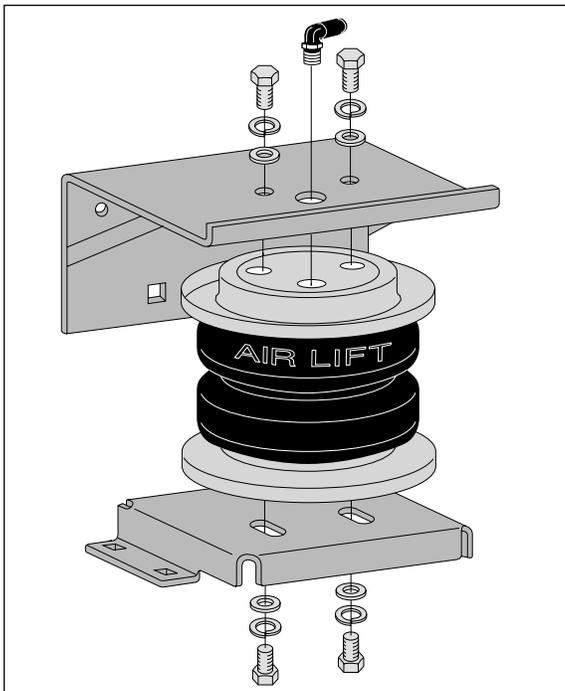


Figure 2

## I. Assembling the Unit

1. Set a roll plate (D) on both ends of the air spring (A). The radiused (rounded) edge of the roll plate will be towards the air spring, so that the air spring is seated in both roll plates (Figure 2).
2. Install 90 degree elbow fitting (E) to the top of the air spring. Tighten finger-tight plus 1 and 1/2 turns. Be careful to only tighten on the metal hex nut. Do not over tighten.
3. Set the upper bracket (B) over the top of the air spring. Attach the upper bracket using two 3/8" bolts (F), two lock washers (G), and two flat washers (H). Tighten securely (Figure 2).
4. Set the lower bracket (C) on to the bottom of the air spring. NOTE: The bracket will be offset to the outside of the vehicle (Figure 3). Attach using two 3/8" bolts (F), two lock washers (G), and two flat washers (H). Leave loose at this time for later adjustment (Figure 2).

## II. Removing the Jounce Bumper

1. Drill or cut the rivets off of the side of the frame that hold the jounce bumper bracket on.
2. Remove the jounce bumper bracket from the side of the frame. Drive the rivets out of the holes that are in the frame (Figure 4). CAUTION: There are lines on the inside of the frame on the passenger's (right) side. Use extreme caution to avoid damaging these lines in any way during the removal process.
3. Drill the two bottom holes out with a 1/2" drill bit. If unable to drill from the outside in, then drill the holes from the inside of the frame out.

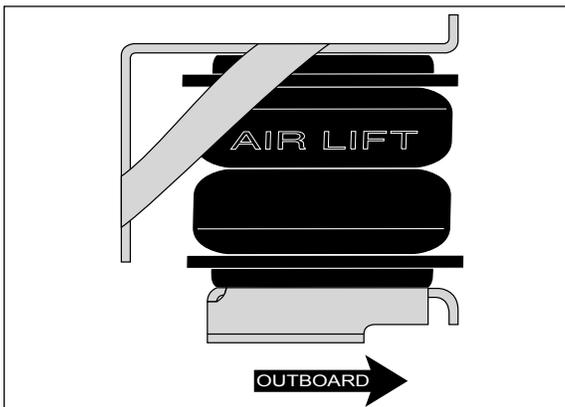


Figure 3

### III. Installing the Assembly

1. Set the assembly on the leaf spring and insert two 1/2" carriage bolts (L) through the bottom holes in the upper bracket and then through the frame. Install a flat washer (M) and nylon lock nut (N) to each bolt. Refer to Figure 1. Leave loose for adjustment.
2. Insert two 3/8" frame bolts (I) through the top holes in the upper bracket and frame. Secure using two flat washers (H) and two nylon lock nuts (K) to the inside of the frame (Fig. 1).
3. Tighten all upper bracket mounting hardware at this time.
4. Insert four 3/8" bolts (J) and four flat washers (H) into the holes on the lower bracket (Figure 1).
5. Slide two clamp bars (O) onto the bolts hanging from the lower bracket and attach using four flat washers (H) and four nylon lock nuts (N). Refer to Figure 1.
6. The lower bracket is slotted for in and out alignment of the air spring. Align the air spring so that it is parallel and perpendicular to the top and bottom. When aligned, tighten all mounting hardware, including the lower air spring hardware to the specified torque value found on page 5.

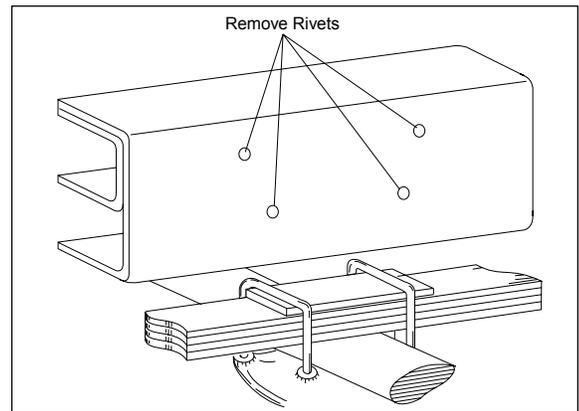


Figure 4

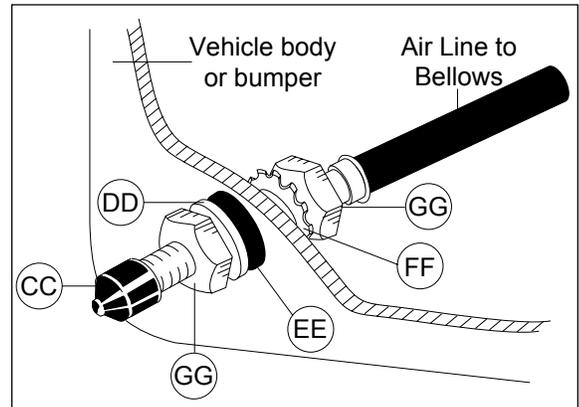


Figure 5

### IV. Installing the Air Lines

1. Choose a convenient location for mounting the inflation valves and drill a 5/16" hole to install the inflation valves. Popular locations for the inflation valve are: the wheel well flanges, license plate recess in bumper, under the gas cap access door, or through license plate itself. *NOTE: What ever the chosen location is, make sure there is enough clearance around the inflation valves for an air chuck.*
2. Cut the air line assembly (AA) in two equal lengths. *CAUTION: When cutting or trimming the air line, use a hose cutter (Air Lift P/N 10530), a razor blade or a sharp knife. A clean, square cut will ensure against leaks. Do not use wire cutters or scissors to cut the air line. These tools may flatten or crimp the air line, causing it to leak around the O-ring seal inside the elbow fitting.*
3. Place a 5/16" nut (GG) and a star washer (FF) on the air valve. Leave enough of the inflation valve in front of the nut to extend through the hole and have room for the rubber washer (EE), flat washer (DD), and 5/16" nut (GG) and cap (CC). There should be enough valve exposed after installation - approximately 1/2" (13mm) - to easily apply a pressure gauge or an air chuck (Figure 5).
4. Push the inflation valve through the hole and use the rubber washer (EE), flat washer (DD), and another 5/16" nut (GG) to secure it in place. Tighten the nuts to secure the assembly in place (Figure 5).
5. Route the air line along the frame to the air fitting on the air spring. Keep at least 6" (150mm) of clearance between the air line and heat sources, such as the exhaust pipes, muffler, or catalytic converter. Avoid sharp bends and edges. Use the plastic zip ties (BB) to secure the air line to fixed, non-moving points along the chassis. Be sure that the zip ties are tight, but do not pinch the air line. Leave at least 2" (50mm) of slack to allow for any movement that might pull on the air line.
6. Cut off air line leaving approximately 12" (300mm) of extra air line. A clean square cut will ensure against leaks. Insert the air line into the air fitting. This is a push to connect fitting. Simply push the air line into the 90 degree swivel fitting until it bottoms out (9/16" of air line should be in the fitting).

## V. Checking for Leaks

1. Inflate the air spring to 30 PSI (2.1BAR)
2. Spray all connections and the inflation valves with a solution of dish soap and water to check for leaks. You should be able to spot leaks easily by looking for bubbles in the soapy water.
3. After the test, deflate the springs to the minimum pressure required to restore the Normal Ride Height, but not less than 10 PSI (.7BAR).
4. **IMPORTANT:** Check the air pressure again after 24 hours. A 2 to 4 PSI (.1-.3BAR) loss after initial installation is normal. Retest for leaks if the loss is more than 5 lbs.

## VI. Fixing Leaks

1. If there is a problem with the swivel fitting, then:
  - a. Check the air line connection by deflating the spring and removing the line by pulling the collar against the fitting and pulling firmly on the air line. Trim 1" (25mm) off the end of the air line. Be sure the cut is clean and square. Reinsert the air line into the push-to-connect fitting.
  - b. Check the threaded connection by tightening the swivel fitting another 1/2 turn. If it still leaks, deflate the air spring, remove the fitting, and re-coat the threads with thread sealant. Reinstall by hand tightening as much as possible, then use a wrench for an additional two turns.
2. If there is a problem with the inflation valve, then:
  - a. Check the valve core by tightening it with a valve core tool.
  - b. Check the air line connection by removing the air line from the barbed type fitting. **CAUTION: Do not cut it off. As this will usually nick the barb and render the fitting useless.** Cut air line off a few inches in front of the fitting and use a pair of pliers or locking pliers to pull/twist the air line off the fitting.
3. If the preceding steps have not resolved the problem, call Air Lift Technical Service at 1-800-248-0892 for assistance.

## VII. Troubleshooting Guide

*Problems maintaining air pressure, without on-board compressor.*

1. Leak test the air line connections and threaded connection of the elbow into the air spring. See Section VI to repair.
2. Leak test the inflation valve for leaks at the air line connection or dirt or debris in the valve core. See Section VI to repair.
3. Inspect air lines to be sure it is not pinched. Zip ties may be too tight. Loosen or replace strap. Replace leaking components.
4. Inspect air line for holes and cracks. Replace as needed.
5. A kink or fold in the air line. Reroute as needed.

*You have now tested for all of the most probable leak conditions that can be easily fixed. At this point the problem is most likely a failed air spring - either a factory defect or an operating problem. Please call Air Lift at 1-800-248-0892 for assistance or a replacement air spring.*

## VIII. Checklist

Protect your warranty on this product and prevent unnecessary wear by ensuring the following checks have been made:

### Section I – Installation (To be completed by the installer):

- 1. Clearance Test - Inflate the air springs to 60 PSI (4BAR) and ensure there is at least 1/2 " (13mm) clearance around each sleeve from anything that might rub against them. Be sure to check the tire, brake drum, frame, shock absorbers and brake cables.
- 2. Leak Test Before Road Test – Inflate the air springs to 60 PSI (4BAR), check all connections for leaks with a soapy water solution. See page 4 of the manual for tips on how to spot leaks. All leaks must be eliminated before the vehicle is road tested.
- 3. Heat Test – Be sure there is sufficient clearance from heat sources - at least 6" (150mm) for air springs and air lines. If a heat shield was included in the kit - install it. If there is no heat shield, but one is required, call 1-800-0892.
- 4. Fastener Test – Recheck all bolts for proper torque.

Torque Guide:

1/2" Carriage Bolts	100 lb.-ft.
3/8" Frame Bolts	44 lb.-ft.
U-bolt Lock Nuts	16 lb.-ft.

- 5. Road Test – The vehicle should be road tested after the preceding tests. Inflate the springs to 25 PSI (1.7BAR) (50 PSI [3.5BAR] if vehicle is loaded). Drive the vehicle 10 miles (16km) and recheck for clearance, loose fasteners and/or air leaks.
- 6. Operating Instructions – If professionally installed, the installer should review the operating instructions on page 6 with the owner. Be sure to provide the owner with all of the paperwork that came with the kit.

### Section II - Post Installation Checklist (To be completed by the owner):

- 1. Overnight Leakdown Test – Recheck air pressure after vehicle has been used for 24 hours. If pressure has dropped more than 5 PSI (.4BAR) then, you have a leak that must be fixed. Either fix the leak yourself (see page 4) or return to the installer for service.
- 2. Air Pressure Requirements – I understand that the air pressure requirements of my air spring system are as follows:

Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ Maximum \_\_\_\_\_

Regardless of load, the air pressure should always be adjusted so that the Ride Height is maintained at all times.

- 3. Thirty Day or 500 Mile (800km) Test. I understand that I must recheck the air spring system after 30 days or 500 miles (800km), whichever comes first. If any part shows signs of rubbing or abrasion, the source should be identified and moved, if possible. If it is not possible to relocate the cause of the abrasion, the air spring may need to be remounted. If professionally installed, the installer should be consulted. Check all fasteners for tightness.

## IX. Maintenance and Operations

<b>Minimum Air Pressure</b>	<b>Maximum Air Pressure</b>
20 PSI (1.4BAR)	100 PSI (7BAR)
<i>Failure to maintain correct minimum pressure (or pressure proportional to load), bottoming out, over-extension, or rubbing against another component will void the warranty.</i>	

By following these steps, vehicle owners will obtain the longest life and best results from their air springs.

1. Check the air pressure weekly.
2. Always maintain Normal Ride Height. Never inflate beyond 100 PSI (7BAR).
3. If you develop an air leak in the system, use a soapy water solution to check all air line connections and the inflation valve core before deflating and removing the air spring.
4. When increasing load, always adjust the air pressure to maintain the Normal Ride Height. Increase or decrease pressure from the system as necessary to attain Normal Ride Height for optimal ride and handling. Remember that loads carried behind the axle (including tongue loads) require more leveling force (pressure) than those carried directly over the axle.
5. **IMPORTANT:** For your safety and to prevent possible damage to your vehicle, *do not exceed maximum Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), as indicated by the vehicle manufacturer.* Although your air springs are rated at a maximum inflation pressure of 100 PSI (7BAR). The air pressure actually needed is dependent on your load and GVWR, which may be less than 100 PSI (7BAR). Check your vehicle owners manual and do not exceed the maximum load listed for your vehicle.
6. Always add air to springs in small quantities, checking the pressure frequently. Air springs require less air volume than a tire and inflate quickly.
7. *Should it become necessary to raise the vehicle by the frame, make sure the system is at minimum pressure (10 PSI [7BAR]) to reduce the tension on the suspension/brake components. Use of on-board leveling systems do not require deflation or disconnection.*



### ***Thank you for purchasing Air Lift Products***

Mailing Address:  
AIR LIFT COMPANY  
P.O. Box 80167  
Lansing, MI 48908-0167

Street Address:  
AIR LIFT COMPANY  
2710 Snow Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48917

Local Phone: (517) 322-2144  
Fax: (517) 322-0240  
<http://www.airliftcompany.com>

For Technical Assistance call 1-800-248-0892

***“The Choice of the Professional Installer”***



# Product Use Information

## Frequently asked questions

**Q. Will installing air springs increase the weight ratings of a vehicle?**

No. Adding air springs will not change the weight ratings (GAWR, GCWR and/or GVWR) of a vehicle. Exceeding the GVWR is dangerous and voids the Air Lift warranty.

**Q. Is it necessary to keep air in the air springs at all time and how much pressure will they need?**

The minimum air pressure should be maintained at all times. The minimum air pressure keeps the air spring in shape, ensuring that it will move throughout its travel without rubbing or wearing on itself.

**Q. Is it necessary to add a compressor system to the air springs?**

No. Air pressure can be adjusted with any type of compressor as long as it can produce sufficient pressure to service the springs. Even a bicycle tire pump can be used, but it's a lot of work.

**Q. How long should air springs last?**

If the air springs are properly installed and maintained they can last indefinitely.

**Q. Will raising the vehicle on a hoist for service work damage the air springs?**

No. The vehicle can be lifted on a hoist for short-term service work such as tire rotation or oil changes. However, if the vehicle will be on the hoist for a prolonged period of time, support the axle with jack stands in order to take the tension off of the air springs.

## Tuning the air pressure

Pressure determination comes down to three things — level vehicle, ride comfort, and stability.

**1. Level vehicle**

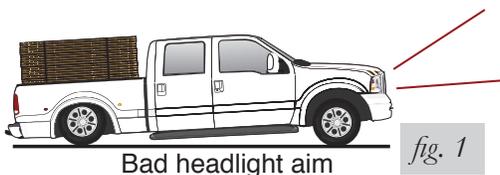
If the vehicle's headlights are shining into the trees or the vehicle is leaning to one side, then it is not level (fig. 1). Raise the air pressure to correct either of these problems and level the vehicle.

**2. Ride comfort**

If the vehicle has a rough and harsh ride it may be due to either too much pressure or not enough (fig. 2). Try different pressures to determine the best ride comfort.

**3. Stability**

Stability translates into safety and should be the priority, meaning the driver may need to sacrifice a perfectly level and comfortable ride. Stability issues include roll control, bounce, dive during braking and sponginess (fig. 3). Tuning out these problems usually requires an increase in pressure.



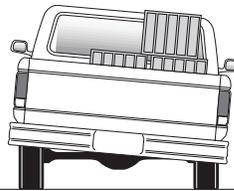
### Guidelines for adding air:

1. Start with the vehicle level or slightly above.
2. When in doubt, always add air.
3. For motor homes, start with 50-100 PSI (3.5-7BAR) in the rear because it can be safely assumed that it is heavily loaded.
4. If the front of the vehicle dives while braking, increase the pressure in the front air bags, if equipped.
5. If it is ever suspected that the air bags have bottomed out, increase the pressure (fig. 4).
6. Adjust the pressure up and down to find the best ride.
7. If the vehicle rocks and rolls, adjust the air pressure to reduce movement.
8. It may be necessary to maintain different pressures on each side of the vehicle. Loads such as water, fuel, and appliances will cause the vehicle to be heavier on one side (fig. 5). As much as a 50 PSI (3.5BAR) difference is not uncommon.

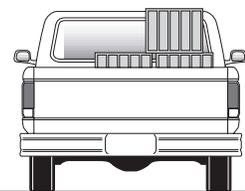


Bottoming out

fig. 4



Unlevel



Level

fig. 5

## Warranty and Returns Policy

Air Lift Company provides a limited lifetime warranty to the original purchaser of its load support products, that the products will be free from defects in workmanship and materials when used on cars and trucks as specified by Air Lift Company and under normal operating conditions, subject to the requirements and exclusions set forth in the full Limited Warranty and Return Policy that is available at [www.airliftcompany.com/warranty](http://www.airliftcompany.com/warranty).

For additional warranty information contact Air Lift Company customer service.



MADE IN USA  
WITH GLOBAL  
COMPONENTS

**Thank you for purchasing Air Lift products! For technical support, please call (800) 248-0892.**  
Air Lift Company • P.O. Box 80167, MI 48908-0167 • (517) 322-2144 • Fax: (517) 322-0240 • [www.airliftcompany.com](http://www.airliftcompany.com)