

# Above and Beyond Auto Repair

## ABOUT STRUTS AND SHOCKS

Ride and Handling Characteristics of your vehicle are controlled by many different factors. The performance condition of the Struts and Shocks, Tires, and the Other Suspension Components all greatly affect your overall control of the vehicle during any driving situation.

The ‘job’ struts and shocks perform is they ensure all tires remain in contact with road surface at all times, even over irregularities. When the struts and shocks are worn due to being driven on excessively harsh road conditions all the time (pot holes, country roads), normal wear and tear (due to mileage), or severe service expectations (performance driving applications, towing, heavy loads), they cannot keep the tire firmly against the ground as well because they loose their dampening ability. This creates a floating feeling in the steering wheel at times while driving.

What actually happens is that the tires ‘float’ just along the surface of the road instead of being held ‘against’ the road surface. When the dampening ability of the struts and shocks is diminished, the little road irregularities keep the tires suspended in the air. This reduces your handling capabilities in ALL driving conditions, including rain and snow.

If your vehicle feels like it is bouncing constantly while driving or continues to bounce more than two times after going over a normal speed bump, chances are that the struts and shocks are worn out. The valves that control the dampening ability of them have become worn and are failing. Struts and shocks do not have to be leaking to be bad, but this is another good indication of a problem with them.

Average life span for MOST struts and shocks is approximately 40,000 – 50,000 miles. Under extreme and/or severe conditions, this approximation is reduced according to the conditions they are subjected to. Front struts tend to wear out faster than the rear struts/shocks because of the increased load due to the engine and transmission being in the front.

An alignment must be performed at the same time of replacement. Replacing all units (front and rear) at the same time is **best** for increased *ride comfort, vehicle handling and control*, and will save money in the long run by reducing tire wear.

**Average replacement time requires less than one day.**