

Strut - Replacement Guidelines

Classification:
FA99-002

Reference:
ITB99-001

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INFINITI VEHICLE STRUT REPLACEMENT GUIDELINES

APPLIED VEHICLES:
All 1990-2000 Infiniti vehicles

SERVICE INFORMATION

This bulletin provides information to correctly identify leaking struts that qualify for replacement under warranty. Use this bulletin to accurately diagnose a leaking **strut**, which should be replaced. This bulletin also provides information to correctly identify a strut which has slight oil seepage, a condition which is considered normal, does not affect the strut's operation or performance and does not require replacement.

SERVICE PROCEDURE

Strut leaks are caused by deterioration of the oil seal due to wear, internal contamination, or external contamination (i.e. outside dust or anti corrosion spray entry). These factors can affect the strut seal mechanism and result in a gross oil leak. In such an instance, the strut needs to be replaced.

NOTE: If **strut** leakage is diagnosed in one strut, do not automatically replace struts on both sides. Replace the leaking strut only.

Strut seepage occurs as a thin layer of oil sticks to the strut's shaft and passes through the seal. A very small amount of oil can escape and stain the upper exterior of the strut. The amount of oil seepage present on the strut can be affected by ambient temperature variations and driving conditions (extreme hot or cold weather or rough road conditions can increase the amount of seepage). Seepage is considered a normal condition since it does not affect the operation and performance of the strut.

Use the following information to identify strut leakage versus strut seepage:

The following criteria can also be applied to shock absorbers.

1. **Strut** Leakage - Strut Needs To Be Replaced:

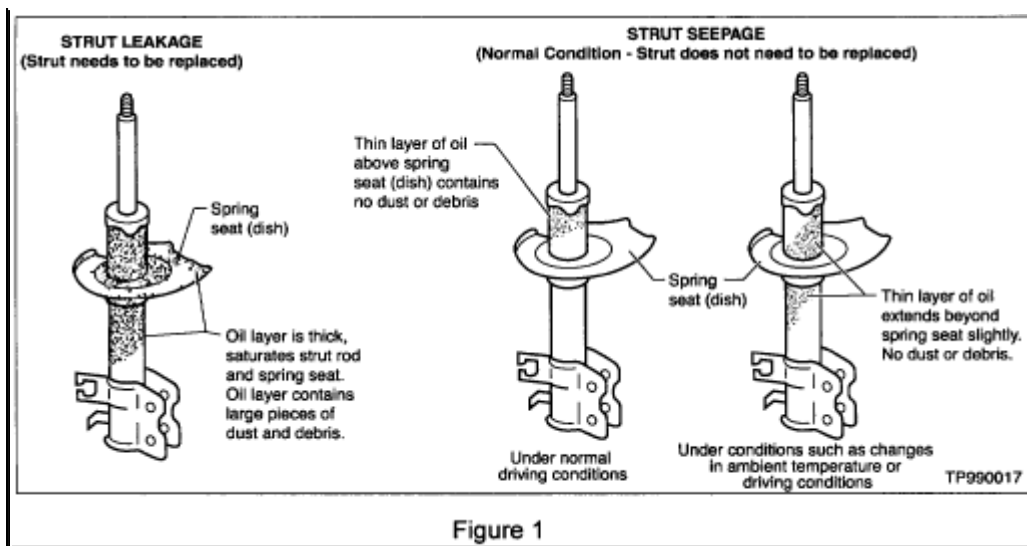


Figure 1

ZOOM

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A **strut** which is leaking and needs to be replaced will exhibit a substantial amount of oil around the exterior body of the strut. The oil layer will extend below the spring seat (dish), will be thick, contain large pieces of dust and debris, and will saturate the strut rod (see Figure 1).

2. **Strut Seepage** (Considered Normal/Does Not Affect Operation and Performance) - Strut Does Not Need to be Replaced:

A **strut** which is seeping will exhibit a thin layer of oil stain on the exterior body of the strut. The oil stain will not usually extend beyond the spring seat (dish) but may extend past the spring seat under conditions such as changes in ambient temperature or driving conditions. The oil stain will not be thick nor will it contain dust or debris (see Figure 1).