

# AIRLIFT 1000

BY



MN-407  
(01904)  
ECN2686

Multiple Applications - See special notes  
for your particular vehicle.

**NOTE:** Some mid-size GM vehicles have a solid cup located on the lower spring seat which will not allow the air line to exit the coil. It is necessary to remove this cup before installing the air spring.

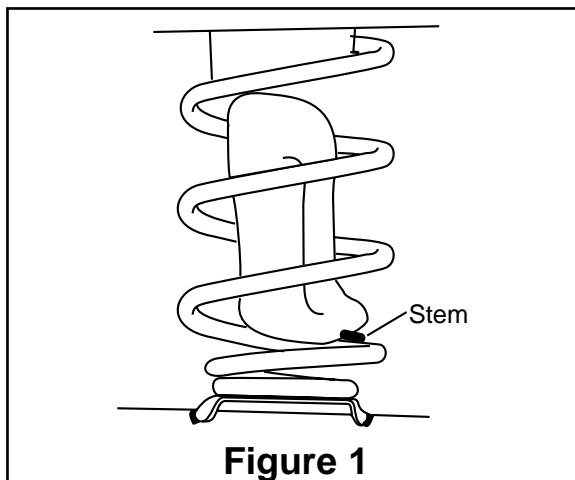


Figure 1

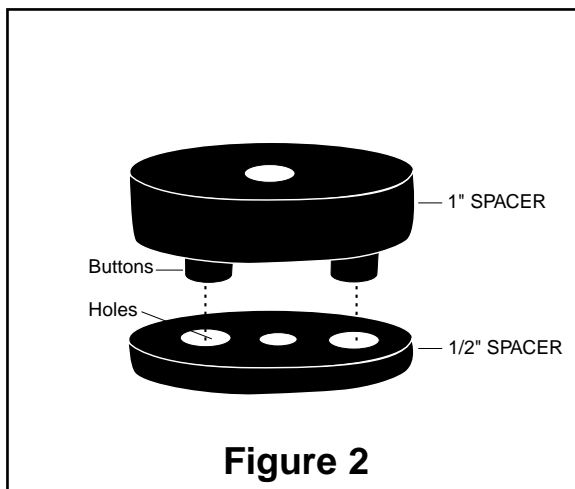


Figure 2

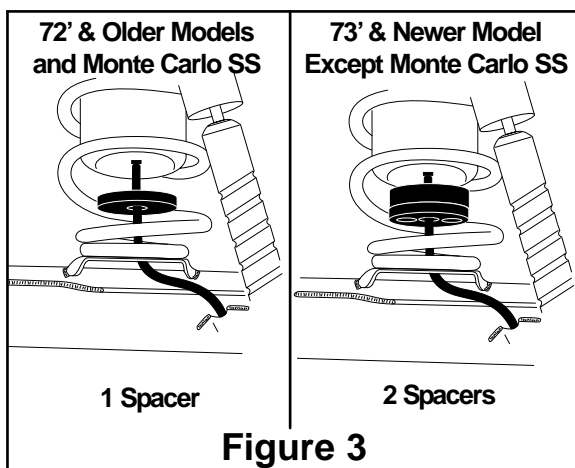
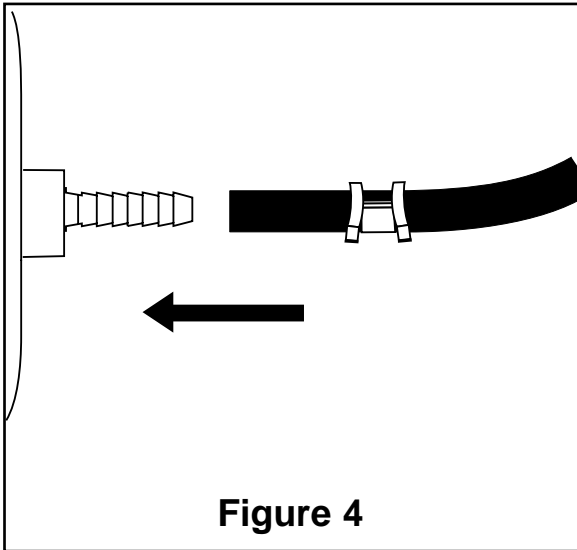


Figure 3

Before beginning the installation check the clearance from coil spring to exhaust. It is common in your application for the exhaust to be very close to the coil. If there is not more than 2" you will need to move the pipe for additional clearance.

1. Jack up rear of vehicle or raise on hoist. Support frame with safety stands. Lower axle or raise body of vehicle until suspension is fully extended.
2. **INSTALL HEAT SHIELD KITS** (Note: Separate instructions are included in heat shield package)
3. Remove plastic cap from barbed stem on end of cylinder. Exhaust the air from the cylinder by rolling it up toward barbed stem. Replace cap on stem to hold flat shape.
4. If necessary, additional clearance between the coil turns may be obtained by removing the shock absorbers from the lower shock mountings and lowering the suspension an additional one to two inches (**CAUTION: OBSERVE TENSION ON BRAKE LINE - DO NOT STRAIN**).
5. Insert flattened air cylinder into coil spring through lowest opening with stem at the bottom (Figure 1).
6. Push the cylinder up within the coil by hand or with a blunt instrument such as a spoon-type tire iron.
7. When the cylinder is completely within the coil, remove the cap and allow the cylinder to assume its "as molded" shape.
8. **73' and Newer Models except Monte Carlo SS** - These models will require the provided 1" spacer attached to the 1/2" spacer. Secure the two parts together by locking the buttons of the 1" spacer into the holes of the 1/2" spacer (Figure 2). **72' and Older Models** - Use the 1/2" spacer ONLY.



**Figure 4**

9. Push cylinder to the top of the coil and insert protector on top of lower spring seat (Figure 2).
10. Install air line and then continue with step 11.

### DUAL AIR LINE ROUTING

**TO PREVENT AIR LINE FROM MELTING, KEEP IT AT LEAST EIGHT INCHES FROM EXHAUST SYSTEM.**

- A. Select a location for the inflation valves in the rocker panel flange, or rear bumper, assuring that each valve will be protected and accessible with an air hose (Figure 7).
- B. Determine and cut adequate length of air line to reach from valve location to left side air cylinder.

**CAUTION: LEAVE SUFFICIENT AIR LINE SLACK TO PREVENT ANY STRAIN ON VALVE STEM DURING NORMAL AXLE MOTIONS.**

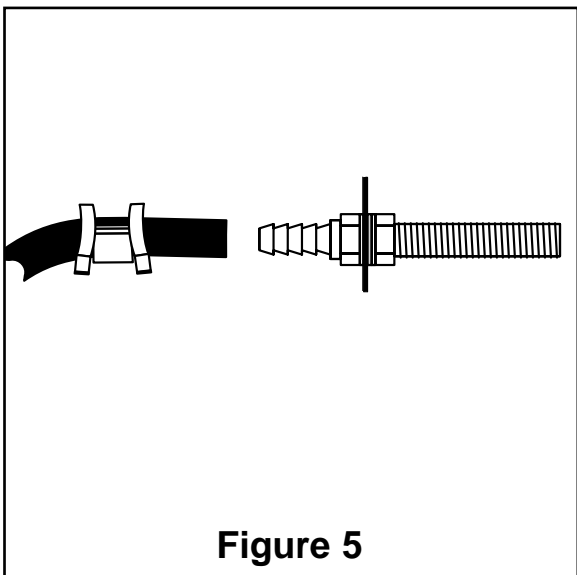
- C. Insert the air line through the spring seat and spacer.
- D. Slide air line clamp onto the cut air line.
- E. Push the air line onto the stem, covering all the barbed section (Figure 4). With pliers slide the air line clamp forward until it fully covers barbed section.
- F. Repeat process for right side.
- G. Drill 5/16" hole for inflating valves and mount as illustrated. Rubber washer is for outside weather seal (Figure 6).

H. Route air line along control arm and frame to inflation valve location and cut off excess.

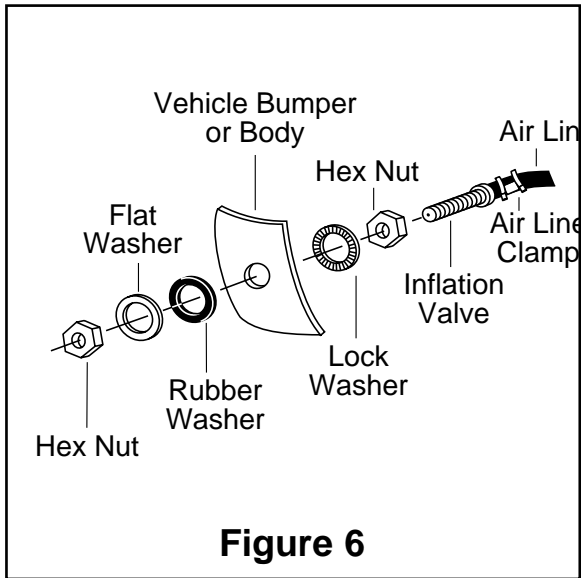
- I. Slide a clamp onto the air line and push the air line over the fitting, covering all the barbs. With pliers slide the air line clamp forward until it fully covers the barbed section (Figure 5).

J. Raise axle or lower body until air cylinders lightly touch upper spring seat and lower spacers.

K. Check TAILPIPE clearance and insure that it is at least 2-3 inches from air cylinders, If necessary, loosen clamps on the exhaust pipe and rotate or move to obtain additional clearance. If heat shields are supplied, install them. Attach shock absorbers if removed earlier in the installation.

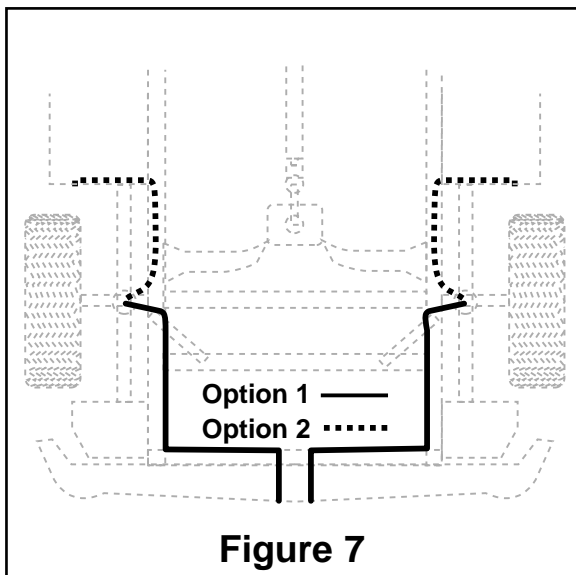


**Figure 5**



**DO NOT INFLATE AIR CYLINDERS BEFORE READING MAINTENANCE & OPERATING TIPS.**

- L. Continue with step 11.
11. Inflate cylinders to 35 p.s.i. air pressure. Test for air leaks by applying a liquid soap/water solution to all valve cores, fittings and connections.
  12. Lower vehicle to the ground. Read Maintenance/Operation Tips for proper care of your air cylinders.
  13. Recheck air pressure after 24 hours. A 2-4 p.s.i. loss after initial installation is normal. If pressure has dropped more than 5 p.s.i. Retest for leaks with a soapy/water solution.



**FAILURE TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM PRESSURE WILL VOID THE WARRANTY**

<b>MINIMUM AIR PRESSURE 5 P.S.I.</b>	<b>MAXIMUM AIR PRESSURE 35 P.S.I.</b>
<p><b>MAINTENANCE TIPS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Check pressure weekly!</li><li>2. Always maintain at least 5 p.s.i. air pressure to prevent chafing or coil pinch.</li><li>3. If you develop an air leak in the system, use a soapy/water solution to check all air line connections and the valve core before removing cylinder.</li></ol> <p><b>OPERATING TIPS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Inflate your air springs to 35 p.s.i. before adding the payload. This will allow the air cylinder to properly mesh with the coil spring. After vehicle is loaded, adjust your air pressure (down) to level the vehicle and for ride comfort.</li><li>2. When you are carrying a payload it will be helpful to increase the tire inflation pressure in proportion to any overload condition. We recommend a 2 p.s.i. increase above normal (not to exceed tire manufacturers maximum) for each 100 lbs. additional load on the axle.</li></ol>	
<div data-bbox="149 1633 441 1822" data-label="Image">The logo for Air Lift, featuring the words "AIR LIFT" in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. The text is white with a black outline and is set against a black circular background. The logo is tilted slightly to the right.</div> <p data-bbox="548 1640 1094 1667" data-label="Text"><i>Thank you for purchasing Air Lift Products</i></p> <p data-bbox="662 1703 1016 1818" data-label="Text"><b>AIR LIFT COMPANY P.O. BOX 80167 Lansing, MI 48908-0167</b></p>	
<p><b>FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALL 1-800-248-0892</b></p>	
<p><b>Caution: DO NOT EXCEED THE VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS MAXIMUM GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING.</b></p>	



# 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**

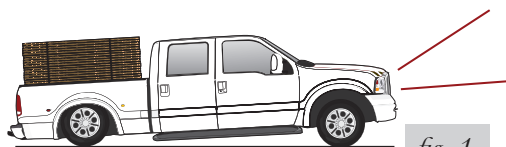
If the vehicle's headlights are shining into the trees or the vehicle is leaning to one side, then it is not level (fig. 1). Raise the air pressure to correct either of these problems and level the vehicle.

**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.



Bad headlight aim

fig. 1



Sway and body roll

fig. 2

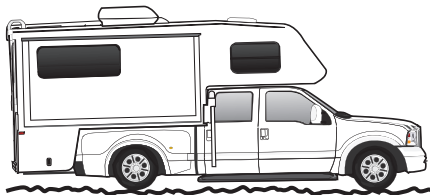


Rough ride

fig. 3

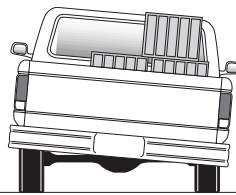
### Guidelines for adding air:

1. Start with the vehicle level or slightly above.
2. When in doubt, always add air.
3. For motorhomes, start with 50-100 PSI 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 difference is not uncommon.

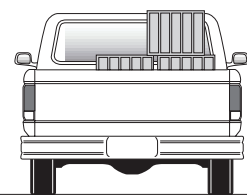


Bottoming out

fig. 4



Unlevel



Level

fig. 5

## Warranty and Returns Policy

Air Lift Company warrants its products, for the time periods listed below, to the original retail purchaser against manufacturing defects when used on catalog-listed applications on cars, vans, light trucks and motorhomes under normal operating conditions for as long as Air Lift manufactures the product. The warranty does not apply to products that have been improperly applied, improperly installed, used in racing or off-road applications, used for commercial purposes, or which have not been maintained in accordance with installation instructions furnished with all products. The consumer will be responsible for removing (labor charges) the defective product from the vehicle and returning it, transportation costs prepaid, to the dealer from which it was purchased or to Air Lift Company for verification.

Air Lift will repair or replace, at its option, defective products or components. A minimum \$10.00 shipping and handling charge will apply to all warranty claims. Before returning any defective product, you must call Air Lift at (800) 248-0892 in the U.S. and Canada (elsewhere, (517) 322-2144) for a Returned Materials Authorization (RMA) number. Returns to Air Lift can be sent to: Air Lift Company • 2727 Snow Road • Lansing, MI • 48917.

Product failures resulting from abnormal use or misuse are excluded from this warranty. The loss of use of the product, loss of time, inconvenience, commercial loss or consequential damages is not covered. The consumer is responsible for installation/reinstallation (labor charges) of the product. Air Lift Company reserves the right to change the design of any product without assuming any obligation to modify any product previously manufactured.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights that vary from state-to-state. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages. The above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. There are no warranties, expressed or implied including any implied warranties of merchantability and fitness, which extend beyond this warranty period. There are no warranties that extend beyond the description on the face hereof. Seller disclaims the implied warranty of merchantability. (Dated proof of purchase required.)

**Air Lift 1000** ..... Lifetime Limited  
**RideControl** ..... Lifetime Limited  
**SlamAir** ..... Lifetime Limited  
**LoadLifter 5000\*** ..... Lifetime Limited  
**EasyStreet Systems** ..... 1 Year Limited

**Load Controller (I)** ..... 2 Year Limited  
**Load Controller (II)** ..... 2 Year Limited  
**SmartAir** ..... 2 Year Limited  
**Wireless AIR**..... 2 Year Limited  
**Other Accessories**..... 2 Year Limited

*\*formerly SuperDuty*

**Thank you for purchasing Air Lift products! For technical support, please call (800) 248-0892.**  
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