



IMPORTANT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

GMC MOTORHOME B46-0950 BILSTEIN REAR SHOCK ABSORBER INSTALLATION

The rear shock absorbers on a GMC front-wheel-drive Motorhome limit the suspension's upward and downward travel. As a result, the shocks may seem to long or too short in some installation circumstances. Part Number B46-0950 is the correct length for the rear suspension.

Observe the following instructions to install the rear shocks, referring to the diagrams on the backside of this page:

1. Position a jack under one side of the motorhome and support the motorhome body to take the weight of the tandem axle. Exhaust the air bag (Note: On 1978 Electro Level II models, disconnect the white tube at the end of the compressor dryer to exhaust the air bag fully).
2. Raise the motorhome with the jack and place jack stands under the frame at crossmember intersections. Remove both rear wheels.
3. Apply the parking brake and support each rear brake drum vertically during shock removal and installation.
4. Disconnect the Height Control Valve or Sensor link from the right-side forward or left-side rearward control arm, and rotate the link clear of the upper shock absorber mount.
5. Remove the old shocks and all washers and check that the lower mounts are all parallel with the upper mounts (use a bolt in the control arm ⑩ to simulate the upper mount). Bent lower mounts can also be detected by rotating the bolt from inside the frame. The upper and lower mounts must be made parallel before installing new shock absorbers to prevent damaging or breaking the shock. If necessary, obtain a new lower mount bolt ① (standard 9/16" grade 8 bolt, or GM part number 9428598).
6. Clean the upper and lower mount counter bores (in the control arms ⑩) with emery cloth, and flush with a lubricating solvent (such as WD-40).
7. Assemble the lower mount bolt ⑥ into the shock's lower mount using a large I.D. spacer washer ② on each side of the shock mount ring. Ensure that the spacer washers ② fit over the steel sleeve ③ in the shock mount, and remain in place over the steel sleeve ③ while pushing the bolt through the shock-mounting bracket ④.
8. Install a small ID flat washer ⑤ and the locknut ⑥ on the lower mount bolt, but do not tighten at this time. Rotate the top of the shock so the upper mount is parallel to the control arm ⑩.



9. Place a jack under the appropriate brake drum and raise the control arm ⑩ until the upper shock mount can be rotated into its hole in the control arm. Adjust the jack until the mount is squarely in position. (If interference with air lines or brackets prevents rotation of the shock mount into its hole, move the control arm to an unobstructed position, manually compress the shock, and rotate the upper mount into the control arm hole as the shock extends. Then adjust the jack until the upper mount is squarely in position).
10. While holding the bolt head end of the upper mount ⑦ with a 15/16" box-end wrench, install the flange locknut ⑨ onto the upper mount and tighten to 170 Nm (125 ft. Lbs). **IMPORTANT:** Do not hold the intermediate nut ⑧ while tightening the flanged locknut.
11. Tighten the lower mount's locknut to 125 Nm (90 ft.lbs.).
12. Release the jack and reconnect the height control valve or sensor (if applicable).

IMPORTANT NOTES

- A. On some early model GMC Motorhomes, the diameter of the outer counter bore in the control arm may be slightly smaller than the flange on the upper mount's locknut. Before installing the shock, ensure that the locknut will fit in the counter bore and rotate freely. If it won't, remove material from the circumference of the flange (by turning on a lathe or grinding) to allow a free fit.
- B. When installing the left-side forward rear shock, check for interference between the shock absorber's dustcover and the fuel separator hose bracket (mounted on the frame) when the motorhome is raised (shock compressed). On early motorhomes the bracket may need to be bent inward to provide clearance for the shock absorber.

