

Correct installation of Leaf Springs and U-Bolts

Leaf Springs

Leaf springs have a number of important functions on a vehicle. They carry the weight and load of the vehicle's body, and they also absorb the vibrations caused by uneven roads.

- To ensure the correct part is chosen - always check the application and notes within the Owen MAM Autocat catalogue against the old spring before selection.
- Owen strongly recommend that leaf springs should always be replaced in axle pairs.
- Check and clean all fitting points, and repair or replace as necessary.
- If the leaf spring is supplied with a loose plate secured to the spring by tape, the tape must be removed before the spring is fitted.
- Changing a spring can be a dangerous job - Owen recommend following a recognised repair manual when changing a leaf spring.
- It is essential that the spring is seated and fitted correctly.

Leaf springs also absorb the acceleration and braking forces of the vehicle, and this can put tremendous stress on the U-Bolts, which are used to secure the leaf spring to the vehicle. U-Bolts should therefore always be replaced rather than re-used if any maintenance involving their removal takes place.

U-Bolts

The Owen range of U-Bolts has been designed to cover the majority of applications. The range is of a universal style and suitable for standard or heavy duty leaf springs. Some are longer than necessary for certain applications, and should be cut to the correct length during installation. Owen U-Bolts are supplied complete with the required nuts.

- In the majority of applications, two U-Bolts are required per leaf spring, i.e. four per axle set.
- Dirty or damaged mounting points can allow U-Bolts to work loose, and should be replaced as necessary.
- The U Bolts must be tightened to the correct torque, as recommended in the recognised repair manual. Following a short journey by the vehicle, the U Bolts should be re-torqued to account for any settlement.
- Correctly tightened U-Bolts should allow no movement of the Leaf spring between the fitting points. Loose U-Bolts will allow movement and can lead to spring breaking around the centre bolt area - **in such cases the spring would not be covered by the Owen warranty.**