

“It’s all part of the service”

with Motors’ Devonport Service Manager, Kim Butterworth



The Role Shock Absorbers Play

The real shock absorbers on your vehicle are springs which, by flexing, absorb the energy of an impact. So what role do shock absorbers actually play?

Pneumatic and hydraulic shock absorbers commonly take the form of a cylinder with a sliding piston inside. The cylinder is filled with a fluid (such as hydraulic fluid) or air. This fluid-filled piston/cylinder combination is a dashpot.

Shock absorbers actually stop the vehicle from bouncing up and down on the flexing springs mentioned above. Most dashpots work by transferring the spring-flexing energy to a piston in an oil-filled chamber, which dissipates it in the form of heat. In hydraulic cylinders the hydraulic fluid will heat up, while in air cylinders, the hot air is usually exhausted to the atmosphere.

The main effect of shock absorbers is to reduce the

effect of traveling over rough ground, leading to improved ride quality. Without them, the vehicle would have a bouncing ride, because energy stored in the spring is released to the vehicle. This can even exceed the allowed range of suspension movement.

You could control excessive suspension movement with stiffer springs, but this would turn your ride into a harsh one. With shock absorbers you can use softer springs and still control the rate of suspension movement in response to bumps. Shock absorbers also counter the up and down motion inherent in the springiness of tyres.

If you have a motoring requirement or query, feel free to contact me, Kim, on 6420 4500, or call into our dealership, at Don Road for immediate assistance.



www.motors.com.au