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Steering Shimmy Elimination Checklist

Note: Steering Shimmy is also known as “death wobble” or speed wobble. It is a violent shaking of the vehicle caused by the front tires turning side to side repeatedly until you slow down. It usually occurs after hitting a bump or pothole at various speeds above 30MPH. If you experience this steering shimmy just **remain calm, you still have steering and braking control**. Just gently apply the brakes and slow down until the shimmy disappears.

Safety Warning: Some of these adjustments will reduce steering shimmy, but also reduce steering stability and steering responsiveness. Test drive carefully after every modification, if you feel any modification is unsafe do not proceed. Keeping your vehicle safe to drive is the responsibility of the person making the adjustments and the driver. The driver must notice any unsafe actions of the vehicle and correct the problem immediately (e.g. wandering or unresponsive steering). Iron Rock Off Road promotes these modifications for low speed off road use only, some of these modifications may not be safe for use on public or private roads, especially at highway speeds. We recommend working with an experienced alignment shop that has the ability, knowledge, and experience to keep your vehicle safe to drive at highway speeds.

- Check all tie rod ends for wear and replace as needed.
- Adjust toe-in to exactly zero. Note: a slight toe-in is preferred for stability, toe out will reduce steering shimmy. See safety warning at the top of this sheet.
- Adjust caster to 3.0 to 5.5 degrees (more caster will improve stability, less caster will reduce steering shimmy). See safety warning at the top of this sheet.
- Check steering stabilizer including bushings, replace if condition is less than perfect. We have researched extensively and found the best steering stabilizers available with the least amount of free play.
- Balance tires and put the best balanced tires in front. The front tires **MUST** be dynamically balanced, meaning they must have wheel weights on both the inner and outer rim flanges as directed by the balancing machine. If you don't like hammer-on weights on the outer flange either for appearance reasons or because of frequent rock damage, then use stick-on weights for the outer weights – in this case function must precede form...don't balance 'statically' with weights just on the inner rim edge. If a tire/wheel requires more than 6 ounces of total balance weights (inner and outer combined), do not use it on the front axle.
- Check all suspension bushings for wear and loose fasteners including control arms and track bar. Any rubber bushing with cracks, or where the rubber is separating from the steel should be replaced.
- Check steering gearbox for wear and adjust or replace as needed.
- Check wheel bearings for wear.
- Check ball joints for wear.
- Install dual steering stabilizer kit.
- Reduce tire air pressure (try 29psi for OEM size tires, less for larger tires). Note: Reducing air pressure too far can cause tires to overheat and blowout at highway speeds. See safety warning at the top of this page.
- Check vehicle stance. Hub to fender measurements should be minimum ¼” higher in the rear (like OEM stance) for maximum stability (this transfers weight to the front tires). Measure on a level surface with normal cargo and ½ tank of gas for maximum accuracy.