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eBook



GUIDE TO
RAM SUSPENSION
LIFT KITS



Guide to Ram Suspension Lift Kits

When you purchase a Ram truck, you can be totally certain that you've chosen a supremely capable vehicle. Not only will you have exceptional power, but massive towing and off-road capabilities as well.

However, your stock vehicle isn't the end all be all. One of the things that makes Ram trucks so versatile is their capacity for upgrades. If you'd like to customize your truck to better fit your sense of adventure, you can do so anytime.

One such upgrade is the suspension lift kit, which has been a staple of off-roading for years. Let's go over what sets the lift kit apart from other enhancements.

The Two Kinds of Lifting: Body vs. Suspension

If you've never lifted a car before, then you may be wondering just what the differences between a body lift and a suspension lift are. While some drivers may assume that the two are interchangeable, this is not the case at all. There are some major differences between each option.

Body Lifts

The body lift is achieved by using blocks and spacers to lift the body of your truck higher on the frame without altering the suspension. With this option, you'll be able to equip larger tires. However, your ground clearance and steering will remain unchanged.

For the most part, the body lift is an aesthetic difference. If you're interested in something that looks bigger, but doesn't handle any differently off-road, then this may be the choice for you. It will certainly be the cheaper one.

Be warned, however, that while the body lift will positively benefit your truck's handling, it may have some negative impacts. With the altered ride height and no suspension modifications to back it up, your truck will likely have less stability.

Suspension Lifts

The suspension lift may be looked over because it is the costlier and more involved installation. However, it can offer your vehicle a lot of benefits.

A suspension lift kit can replace several components of the truck's body, depending on how complex you'd like to get. You can upgrade the shocks, struts, leaf springs, control arms, and trailing arms, or even the drive shafts.

All these enhancements will increase suspension maneuverability and ground clearance, as well as add bigger tires. Overall, these changes will heighten precision, allowing your Ram to go off-road with far more ease and safety.

What Do You Plan to Do with Your Truck?

Choosing between a body lift and a suspension lift isn't hard. It all depends on where you plan on taking your truck. If you're not an off-road driver, but prefer the look of a lifted vehicle, you'll want to go with a body lift. It'll end up saving you some money.

However, if you plan on heading out on some more adventurous terrain, the body lift won't cut it. You need a suspension lift to handle off-roading with precision and power, so you can safely navigate those bumpy yet fun roads.



How Does Lifting Differ from Leveling?

When you start considering lifting your vehicle, you may hear some talk about leveling. While leveling can sometimes offer an appearance like a lift, it's an entirely different kind of upgrade.

Leveling Kits

On a normal truck, the rear is going to sit higher than the cab. This is designed specifically to compensate for hauling. If you're carrying a lot of cargo in the bed of your truck, it's naturally going to sag a bit.

A leveling kit does just what its name suggests. It raises up the cab, so both ends of your vehicle are level with each other. This won't offer your handling any benefits, but may offer a bit more ground clearance, which can be useful off-road.

One visual aspect that many drivers consider to be a drawback of leveling is that during a haul, the nose of your vehicle tends to rise. This will create a less leveled look than you would've had in your truck.

What Kind of Suspension Lift Kit Should You Choose?

As mentioned, suspension lift kits are the most effective type of lift available. Naturally, this means that they also are going to be the most expensive. Let's examine a range of different examples to see just what you can get for your money.

Starter (Under 1K)

If you're looking for a low-end lift with increased handling, try a 4-inch radius arm drop lift kit. Heavy-duty drop brackets will lower your stock radius arms and secure them to the arm mounts.

This arm drop gives the frame of your Ram a bit of extra support, helping it to handle better with that 4-inch lift.

- **This kit features:** Four hydro shocks, front coil springs, brake line relocation brackets, and more.

Standard (Around 1K)

A radius arm lift kit will give your Ram a 5.5-inch lift and high-performance shock absorbers. The all-new radius arms will not only increase off-road performance, but their greaseable bushings will dampen road noise and vibrations, too. This time around, your radius arms will be pushed inward, allowing for maximum tire clearance.

- **This kit features:** Long radius arms, four nitro shocks, a front track bar bracket, and more.

Mid-Grade (Around 1.5K)

This 4-inch lift kit aims to offer an equal amount of precision and rise. Bilstein rear shocks and advanced control arm crossmembers will allow your truck to take more of a beating, especially when climbing those rocky roads.

Rear coil springs will then increase your load-carrying capabilities, so that you can tow bigger and better than ever before.

- **This kit features:** Front anti-sway bar link extensions, replacement knuckles, improved bracketry, and more.

Advanced (Around 2K)

With this 6-inch lift kit, your Ram will be backed by all-new Bilstein equipment. All those shocks, links, and brackets will offer your truck optimum handling capabilities for off-road situations.

- **This kit features:** Superide Dual Rate rear coil springs, front lower control arm crossmembers, a durable belly pan, and more.

Top-Rate (Up to 4K)

While your most common suspension lift kits are going to range anywhere from \$800 - \$2,000, some lift kits can go up to as much as \$4,000. As you can imagine, the more expensive you go, the more equipment your kit is going to contain.

It's always a good idea to compare pricing and kits, as they will undoubtedly feature different materials. Be sure to do your research and choose one that is relevant to your off-road and towing needs.

Going Off-Road with Your Lifted Truck

There's no doubt that going off-road can be a lot of fun. You can crawl over rocky mountain roads, head into the woods, or blaze a trail through the desert. However, these maneuvers simply won't be possible if you don't have a capable and safe vehicle on your side.

A fundamental of off-road safety is your car's shock absorbers. Most Ram trucks will come equipped with hardy shock absorbers. However, the rougher the roads get, the less punishment these shocks will be able to take. The less they can handle, the more wear your suspension will incur.

Whereas body lifts and levels can really give your Ram the appearance of ground clearance, neither are going to enhance your suspension the way a dedicated suspension lift will. With that in mind, neither will also give your truck the boost it needs to handle off-roading either.

Tow Your Own Way

Many of the benefits you'll see when going off-road with your lifted vehicle will transfer into towing, too. With those bigger tires, a tougher suspension, and heavy-duty shocks, your Ram is going to be able to take a bit more punishment.

In some cases, this equipment upgrade is going to cause your maximum towing capacity to increase as well. Feel free to haul more equipment on your next off-road adventure!



A Word of Caution

As you can see, there are numerous benefits of using a suspension lift kit on your Ram. However, all that added ground clearance and off-road capability can come at a cost.

Depending on how high you're raising your truck, its center of gravity is naturally going to be thrown off a bit. This means that in some situations, its stability will be greatly altered. Your steering wheel may vibrate from time to time, too.

You should always drive carefully. However, with a suspension lift kit installed, you're going to need to exert a bit more caution to maintain stability.

Need a Lift?

If you've purchased a Ram truck, it's because you know exactly how tough these vehicles are. There are very few that can give you a driving experience with the same amount of precision and smoothness. However, that doesn't mean you can't make it even better.

If you're interested in equipping your truck with a suspension lift kit, talk to your local Ram dealer first. They can direct you to some of the best kits on the market, and maybe even set up an installation appointment.

Lift your truck today to prepare for your next big adventure!

