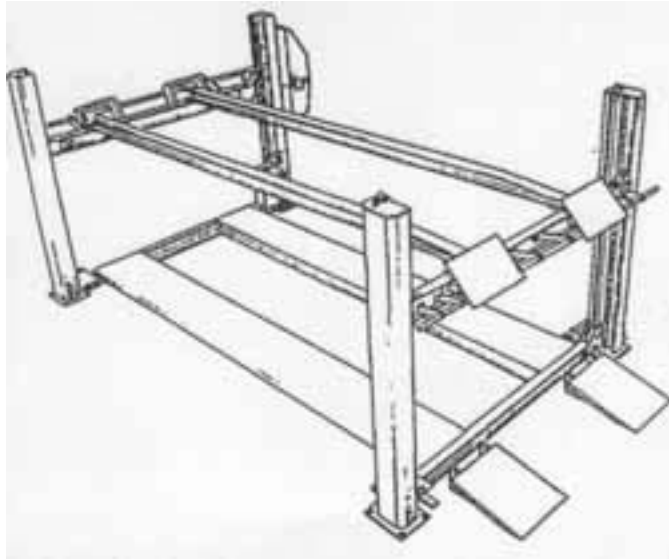


Maintenance & Inspection of Cable Operated Automotive Lifts

Annual maintenance of your cable-operated automobile lift can save you money. Cable replacement is expensive. Inspection and servicing of the lift at least once yearly will provide for early detection and replacement of worn or broken parts, and will maintain proper



adjustment, adequate lubrication and suitable rust protection. This combination is necessary for long and safe service from the cable system.

Owners can perform inspections and maintenance on their own lifts once they know what to check and how to perform the proper maintenance procedures. Obtain a copy of the manufacturer's maintenance or service manual if you don't already have one. This will give you information specific to your equipment. Here are some general guidelines to follow:

- Clean all rollers, pins, bearings, pulleys, guide blocks and other moving parts and check for wear, cracks, or broken parts. Replace parts as necessary and lubricate according to the equipment manual.
- Check adjustments to ensure cable has not stretched beyond limit and that end connections are in good condition.
- Check cables while cleaning for fraying, rust and wear. Clean and lubricate cables with a product such as marine

grade penetrating lubricant LPS-2. Then protect from rust and dirt with LPS-3, which does not attract dirt like oil does. A second choice of cleaner/lubricant for this purpose is WD-40. Engine oil or grease attract dirt, do not penetrate well, and do not protect from rust.

- Inspect column base fixing bolts and torque to proper figure (see equipment manual).
- Inspect safety catch gear for damage, rust, and proper operation.
- Check hydraulic oil reservoir and top up as necessary. A hoist with good hydraulic seals does not "use" oil. If your lift "uses" oil then it likely creeps down, and makes a mess from leaking oil which is a slipping hazard. In this case the hydraulic seals must be replaced.
- Document lift inspection and maintenance. This will ensure continuity of service regardless of continuity of personnel. A checklist covering the above topics, showing information such as parts replaced, adjustments made, condition of cables and any other relevant information, and a service date and signature are sufficient. These checklists can simply be filed together for future reference. Another method is to use a logbook.
- Inspect the lift after any impact that could cause damage i.e. if a car runs into the lift. This inspection should be made before the lift is used again and repairs made if necessary, to keep the lift in safe condition.

Annual service is for "normal" use situations. Approximately 1000 to 1500 lifts per year (5 lifts per work day). Severe use conditions require more frequent service. Severe conditions include:

- over 2500 lifts per year (10+ per day)
- steam bay or water/salt conditions
- outside lift installation

- dusty conditions (e.g. body shop)

Occupational Health & Safety
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