



From The Dale Moseley's
Helping to Manage Your Shop Equipment
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**FLAMINGO
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Flamingo Shop Serv Technical Brief Proper Lift Usage and Care

Without exception all automotive lifts are designed to lift the vehicle to the desired height then lowered slightly onto safety locks while the vehicle is being worked on. When the safety locks are engaged the weight is properly spread to the columns and the vehicle is secure. When the mechanic is finished he should raise the vehicle slightly, release the safety locks and lower it to the ground.

The above is what **should** be done. The norm is to raise the vehicle, do the work, and then lower the vehicle-never using the safety locks. This is bad for two reasons:

- 1) **It is not safe** because the only thing keeping the car in the air is a 2-½ inch column of hydraulic oil under a lot of pressure. The only thing between the car and the ground is the oil and the mechanic.
- 2) **Seal life is reduced.** Consider that all above ground lifts and many in ground lifts operate at an oil pressure of about 2,300 PSI. It takes less than a minute to raise a vehicle. If the safety locks are not used the pressure continues on the seals for as long as the vehicle is in the air-twenty minutes, thirty minutes or the weekend.

Do yourself and your people a favor. As you walk through your shop, insist that your mechanics use safety locks. You may be surprised by the number of lifts on which the safety locks do not work. The locks have been made inoperative by either the mechanic or lack of maintenance.

The reason many mechanics do not use safety locks is the few seconds it takes to engage and disengage. You would think that the mechanic would be the person most interested in his safety. Not so. Management and OSHA must insist that safety locks be used

Flamingo Shop Serv sells both Rotary and Challenger lifts and repairs most brands. Ask us about a safety inspections for all your lifts.

Attached is a PDF file of Safety, Operating and Maintenance Instructions for the most popular aboveground lift. This information can serve as a reference, the subject of a safety meeting or be posted in your shop.



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