

Hubs/Drums/Bearings

Dexter offers several types of bearing arrangements and lubrication methods.

- Dexter's standard wheel bearing configuration consists of opposed tapered roller bearing cones and cups, fitted inside of a precision machined cast hub. This method of using tapered roller bearings requires that a minimal amount of axial end play be provided at assembly. This end play is essential to the longevity of the bearings service life. This design is typically lubricated with grease, packed into the bearings. Oil lubrication is another method which is available in some of the larger axle capacities.
- E-Z Lube® is another option chosen by some trailer manufacturers. If your axle is equipped with the Dexter E-Z Lube® feature, the bearings can be periodically lubricated without removing the hubs from the axle. This feature consists of axle spindles that have been specially drilled and assembled with grease fittings in their ends. When grease is pumped into the fitting, it is channeled to the inner bearing and then flows back to the outer bearing and eventually back out the grease cap hole.
- Nev-R-Lube® option is the latest innovation from Dexter. Nev-R-Lube® bearings are comprised of opposed tapered roller bearing cones sealed inside of a precision ground, one piece double cup arrangement. These bearings are designed with a small amount of axial end play. This end play is essential to the longevity of the bearings service life. They are lubricated, assembled and sealed at the factory. No further lubrication is ever needed.

Before attempting any disassembly of your Dexter axle, make sure you read and follow the instructions for the appropriate axle type.



Scan to view
Bearing Maintenance video

Hub Removal - Standard Bearings

Whenever the hub equipment on your axle must be removed for inspection or maintenance the following procedure should be utilized.

1. Elevate and support the trailer unit per manufacturers' instructions.



CAUTION

You must follow the maintenance procedures to prevent damage to important structural components. Damage to certain structural components such as wheel bearings can cause the wheel end to come off of the axle. Loss of a wheel end while the trailer is moving can cause you to lose control and lead to an accident, which can result in serious injury or death.

2. Remove the wheel.
3. Remove the grease cap by carefully prying progressively around the flange of the cap. If the hub is an oil lube type, then the cap can be removed by unscrewing it counterclockwise while holding the hub stationary.
4. Remove the cotter pin from the spindle nut.

For E-Z Lube® axles produced after February of 2002, a new type of retainer is used. Gently pry off retainer from the nut and set aside.
5. Unscrew the spindle nut (counterclockwise) and remove the spindle washer.
6. Remove the hub from the spindle, being careful not to allow the outer bearing cone to fall out. The inner bearing cone will be retained by the seal.

Brake Drum Inspection

There are two areas of the brake drum that are subject to wear and require periodic inspection. These two areas are the drum surface where the brake shoes make contact during stopping and the armature surface where the magnet contacts (only in electric brakes).

The drum surface should be inspected for excessive wear or heavy scoring. If worn more than .020" oversized, or the drum has worn out of round by more

than .015", then the drum surface should be re-machined. If scoring or other wear is greater than .090" on the diameter, the drum must be replaced. When turning the drum surface, the maximum rebore diameter is as follows:

- 7" Brake Drum-7.090" diameter
- 10" Brake Drum-10.090" diameter
- 12" Brake Drum-12.090" diameter
- 12 1/4" Brake Drum-12.340" diameter
- 6K, 7K and 8K Rotor-1.03" minimum thickness
- 3.5K Rotor-.85" minimum thickness

The machined inner surface of the brake drum that contacts the brake magnet is called the armature surface. If the armature surface is scored or worn unevenly, it should be refaced to a 120 micro inch finish by removing not more than .030" of material. To ensure proper contact between the armature face and the magnet face, the magnets should be replaced whenever the armature surface is refaced and the armature surface should be refaced whenever the magnets are replaced.

Note: It is important to protect the wheel bearing bores from metallic chips and contamination which result from drum turning or armature refacing operations. Make certain that the wheel bearing cavities are clean and free of contamination before reinstalling bearing and seals. The presence of these contaminants will cause premature wheel bearing failure.

Bearing Inspection

Wash all grease and oil from the bearing cone using a suitable solvent. Dry the bearing with a clean, lint-free cloth and inspect each roller completely.

CAUTION

**Never spin the bearing with compressed air.
THIS CAN DAMAGE THE BEARING.**

If any pitting, spalling, or corrosion is present, then the bearing must be replaced. The bearing cup inside the hub must be inspected.

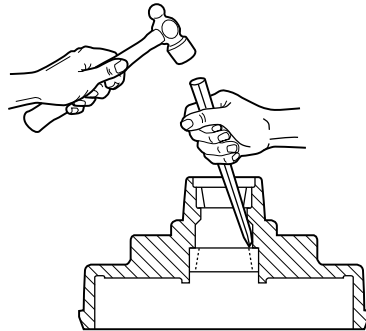
IMPORTANT: Bearings must always be replaced in sets of a cone and a cup.

⚠ CAUTION

Be sure to wear safety glasses when removing or installing force fitted parts. Failure to comply may result in serious eye injury.

When replacing the bearing cup proceed as follows:

1. Place the hub on a flat work surface with the cup to be replaced on the bottom side.
2. Using a brass drift punch, carefully tap around the small diameter end of the cup to drive out.
3. After cleaning the hub bore area, replace the cup by tapping in with the brass drift punch. Be sure the cup is seated all the way up against the retaining shoulder in the hub.



Replace only with bearings as specified in the Bearing Replacement Chart.

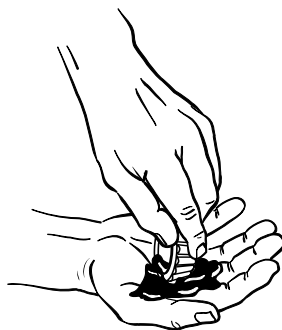
Bearing Lubrication - Grease

CAUTION

Do not mix Lithium, calcium, sodium or barium complex greases due to possible compatibility problems. When changing from one type of grease to another, it is necessary to ensure all the old grease has been removed.

Along with bearing adjustment, proper lubrication is essential to the proper function and reliability of your trailer axle. Bearings should be lubricated every 12 months or 12,000 miles. The method to repack bearing cones is as follows:

1. Place a quantity of grease into the palm of your hand.
2. Press a section of the widest end of the bearing into the outer edge of the grease pile closest to the thumb forcing grease into the interior of the bearing.
3. Repeat this while rotating the bearing from roller to roller.
4. Continue this process until you have the entire bearing completely filled with grease.
5. Before reinstalling, apply a light coat of grease on the bearing cup.



Bearing Lubrication - Oil

If your axles are equipped with oil lubricated hubs, periodically check and refill the hub as necessary with a high quality hypoid gear oil to the level indicated on the clear plastic oil cap. The oil can be filled from either the oil fill hole, if present, in the hub or through the rubber plug hole in the cap itself.

Recommended Wheel Bearing Lubrication Specifications

Grease

Thickener Type	Lithium Complex
Dropping Point	215°C (419°F) Minimum
Consistency	NLGI No. 2
Additives	EP, Corrosion & Oxidation Inhibitors
Viscosity Index	80 Minimum

Approved Grease Sources

Chem Arrow	Arrow 2282
Chevron Texaco	Chevron Ulti-Plex Grease EP #2 Texaco Starplex Moly MPGM #2
Citgo	Lithoplex MP #2 Lithoplex CM #2 Mystik JT-6 Hi-Temp Grease #2
ConocoPhillips/ 76 Lubricants/Kendall	Multiplex RED #2 L427 Super Blu Grease
Dexter Company	Lithoplex Red MP #2
Exxon/Mobil Company	Ronex, MP Mobilith AW 2 Mobil I Synthetic Grease
Fuchs	Renolit Uniwrl 2
Great Plains Lubricants	Lithium Complex EP #2
Oil Center Research of Oklahoma	Liquid-O-Ring No, 167L
Pennzoil-Quaker State Company	Synthetic Red Grease
Royal Mfg. Company	Royal 98 Lithium Complex EP #2
Shell	Gadus S3 V220C Gadus S5 V220 Rotella Heavy Duty Lithium Complex #2
Valvoline	Valvoline Multi-Purpose GM Valvoline DuraBlend

Oil

SAE 90, SAE 80W-90, SAE 75W-90

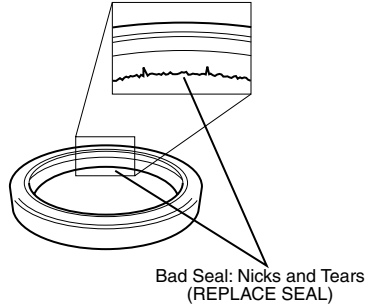
Approved Oil Sources

Ashland Oil	Valvoline DuraBlend
CITGO Petroleum Co.	CITGO Premium Gear Oil MP Mystik JT-7 Mystik Power Lube
Conoco	Universal Gear Lubricant 80W-90
Exxon Company USA	Gear Oil GX 80W-90
Industrial Oils Unlimited	Super MP Gear Oil 80W-90
Kendall Refining Co.	Kendall NS-MP Hypoid Gear Lube
Lubriplate Division/ Fiske Brothers Refining	Lubriplate APG 90
MFA Oil Company	Multi-Purpose Gear Oil 80W-90
Mobil Oil Corporation	Mobilube SHC Mobil 1 Synthetic Gear Lube
Phillips 66 Petroleum	Superior Multi-Purpose Gear Oil Philguard Gear Oil Philsyn Gear Oil
Pennzoil Products Co.	Gear Plus 80W-90 GL-5 Gear Plus Super 75W-90 Gear Plus Super EW 80W-90 Multi-Purpose 4092 Gear Lube
Oil Center Research	Liquid-O-Ring 750 GX
Sun Refining and Marketing Company	Sunoco Ultra Sunoco Dura Gear
Shell Oil Company	Spirax A Spirax G Spirax HD Spirax S
Texaco Oil Company	Multigear EP Multigear SS
Troco Division/ Royal Manufacturing	Multigear Select Gear Oil
Union Oil Company	Unocal MP Gear Lube 76 Triton Syn Lube EP

Note: The convenient lubrication provisions of the E-Z Lube® and the oil lubrication must not replace periodic inspection of the bearings.

Seal Inspection and Replacement

Whenever the hub is removed, inspect the seal to assure that it is not nicked or torn and is still capable of properly sealing the bearing cavity. If there is any question of condition, replace the seal. Use only the seals specified in the Seal Replacement Chart.



To replace the seal:

1. Pry the seal out of the hub with a seal removal tool or a screwdriver. Never drive the seal out with the inner bearing as you may damage the bearing.
2. Apply a sealant similar to PERMATEX® High-Temp Red RTV Silicone Gasket to the outside of the seal. Use only enough to provide a thin coat to prevent any excess from contaminating the rubber lip(s) of the seal. It is okay to apply a slight amount of lube to the inner rubber lip(s) to aid with installing onto the spindle.

Note: No sealant should be used if the outside of the seal is rubber coated. For these type of seals it is recommended to apply a thin coat of oil to the outside rubber.

3. Clean the seal journal of the spindle to inspect for nicks or roughness. Use a file to remove any burrs from the leading edge or shoulder area. Clean the journal area with very fine emery cloth. Any presence of deep gouges or scratches in this area may cause seal failure allowing lubricant to leak out of the hub.
4. Clean the seal bore in the hub and inspect for any nicks, gouges, or scratches that may prevent the seal from retaining the bearing lubricant inside the hub.

5. Orient the seal properly. Many oil bath seals will be marked AIR SIDE on the side of the seal to facing out of the hub after installation.
6. Install new seal into place using a seal driver or seal installation tool of proper size. It is important that any seal installation tool contact the outer ring of the seal casing. If no seal driver is available, use a clean block of wood. It is critical that the seal be driven in evenly and straight. NEVER hammer directly on the seal.
7. The seals will be pressed flush to the back surface of the hub in the 600-8,000 lbs. capacity product line. It is NEVER necessary to bottom out the seal for proper installation. Driving the seal in too deep may damage the seal and may come in contact with the inner bearing preventing it from rotating freely.
8. Proper installation will maintain the seal flatness in the hub within .010". A seal that is cocked too much inside the hub will be more likely to leak.

Bearing Adjustment and Hub Replacement

If the hub has been removed or bearing adjustment is required, the following adjustment procedure must be followed.

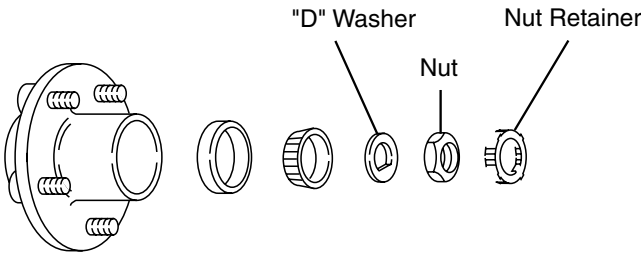
For standard grease or oil axles using cotter pin:

1. After placing the hub, bearings, washers, and spindle nut back on the axle spindle in reverse order as detailed in the previous section on hub removal, rotate the hub assembly slowly while tightening the spindle nut to approximately **50 Ft. Lbs.** (12" wrench or pliers with full hand force.)
2. Then loosen the spindle nut to remove the torque. Do not rotate the hub.
3. Finger tighten the spindle nut until just snug.
4. Back the spindle nut out slightly until the first castellation lines up with the cotter key hole and insert the cotter pin.
5. Bend over the cotter pin legs to secure the nut.
6. Nut should be free to move with only restraint being the cotter pin.

For E-Z Lube® axles using the new nut retainer:

1. After placing the hub, bearings, washers, and spindle nut back on the axle spindle in reverse order as detailed in the previous section on hub removal, rotate the hub assembly slowly while tightening the spindle nut to approximately **50 Ft. Lbs.** (12" wrench or pliers with full hand force.)
2. Then loosen the spindle nut to remove the torque. Do not rotate the hub.
3. Finger tighten the nut until just snug, align the retainer to the machined flat on the spindle and press the retainer onto the nut. The retainer should snap into place. Once in place, the retainer/nut assembly should be free to move slightly.
4. If the nut is too tight, remove the retainer and back the nut off approximately one twelfth of a turn and reinstall the retainer. The nut should now be free to move slightly.
5. Reinstall grease cap.

Typical E-Z Lube® After Spring 2002



E-Z Lube® Lubrication

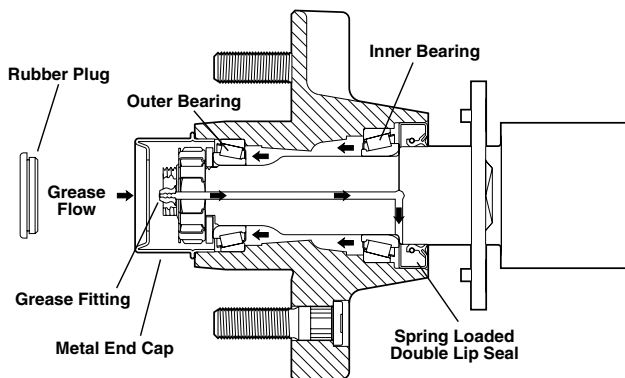
The procedure is as follows:

1. Remove the rubber plug from the end of the grease cap.
2. Place a standard manual grease gun onto the grease fitting located in the end of the spindle. Make sure the grease gun nozzle is fully engaged on the fitting.
3. While rotating the hub, pump grease slowly into the fitting. The old displaced grease will begin to flow back out the cap around the grease gun nozzle.

4. When the new clean grease is observed, remove the grease gun, wipe off any excess, and replace the rubber plug in the cap.
5. Rotate hub or drum while adding grease.

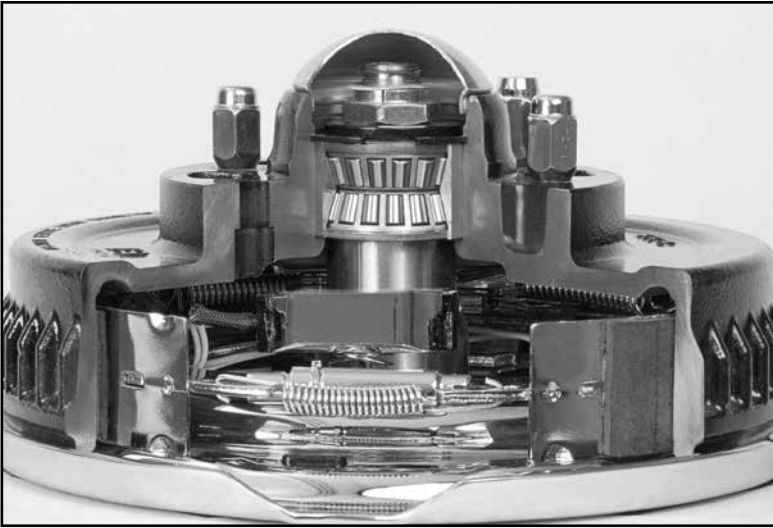
Note: The E-Z Lube® feature is designed to allow immersion in water. Axles not equipped with E-Z Lube® are not designed for immersion and bearings should be repacked after each immersion. If hubs are removed from an axle with the E-Z Lube® feature, it is imperative that the seals be replaced BEFORE bearing lubrication. Otherwise, the chance of grease getting on brake linings is greatly increased.

Note: Dexter strongly recommends not using pneumatic powered grease guns as these can inject grease too fast and force grease past the seal, or in rare cases dislodge the seal.



Nev-R-Lube® Drums/Bearings

Dexter's Nev-R-Lube® bearings are comprised of opposed tapered roller bearing cones sealed inside of a precision ground, one piece double cup arrangement. These bearings are designed with a small amount of axial end play. This end play is essential to the longevity of the bearings service life.



Note: Nev-R-Lube® is not designed for immersion in water, such as boat trailer use.

CAUTION

Dexter has advised trailer manufacturers of certain wheel limitations when used with the Nev-R-Lube® bearings. The offset of the wheel must be as listed. Deviation from these limits will result in limited bearing life and possible catastrophic failure.

- 35MM - use only zero offset wheels
- 42MM - use only zero offset wheels
- 50MM - use only zero offset to .19" wheels

Drum Removal

Whenever the hub equipment on your axle must be removed for inspection or maintenance, the following procedure should be utilized.

1. Elevate and support the trailer unit per manufacturer's instructions.



CAUTION

Do not lift or support the trailer on any part of the axle or suspension system. Never go under any trailer unless it is properly supported on jack stands which have been rated for the load. Improperly supported vehicles can fall unexpectedly and cause serious injury or death.

2. Remove the wheel.
3. Remove the grease cap from the hub by carefully prying progressively around the flange.
4. Remove snap ring on the end of the spindle. Remove "torque instruction" washer.
5. Unscrew the spindle nut (counterclockwise) and remove the spindle washer.
6. Carefully remove the hub from the spindle. The Nev-R-Lube® bearing cartridge will remain in the hub.

Note: Do not remove cartridge bearing from the hub bore unless replacement of the bearing cartridge is intended. Special tools and techniques are required for removal of the old bearing.

Bearing Inspection

Important:

1. Elevate and support the trailer unit per manufacturer's instructions.



CAUTION

Do not lift or support the trailer on any part of the axle or suspension system. Never go under any trailer unless it is properly supported on jack stands which have been rated for the load. Improperly supported vehicles can fall unexpectedly and cause serious injury or death.

2. Check for excessive wheel end clearance by pulling the tire assembly towards you and by pushing the assembly away from you. Slight end play is acceptable.
3. Rotate tire slowly forwards and backwards. The wheel assembly should turn freely and smoothly.
4. Excessive wheel end play, restriction to rotation, noise, or "bumpy" rotation should be remedied by replacing the bearing unit.
5. Bearing units should be inspected every year or 12,000 miles whichever comes first.

Note: A slight amount of grease weeping from the seal area is normal. Excessive leakage may indicate abnormal bearing operation.

Nev-R-Lube® Bearing End Play Inspection

The following lists the maximum axial end play for each of the sizes of Nev-R-Lube® bearings and the amount of tilt that can be expected. Since there are a large number of wheel and tire combinations in use on trailers, the tilt is expressed in inches per inch. The movement as measured at the tire tread can be found by the following method:

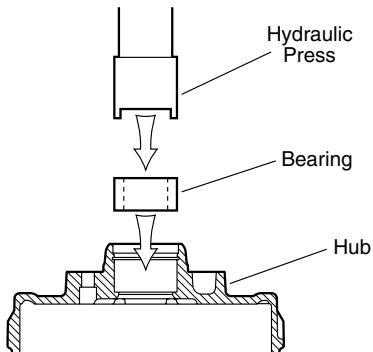
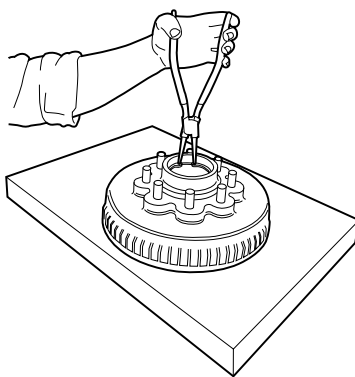
Example: if the tilt value is shown as .003" per inch and the tire measures 30" in diameter, simply multiply .003" X 15" (1/2 tire diameter) = .045" which is the total expected movement at the tires' outer diameter.

Bearing Size	End Play	Resultant Tilt Value
35 MM	.005" axial	.003" / per inch
42 MM	.006" axial	.005" / per inch
50 MM	.008" axial	.004" / per inch

It is important to note that most mounted tires will deflect fairly easily when enough hand pressure is applied while shaking the tire. Excessive pressure will result in the perception that the bearings' tilt is greater than it actually is. This same phenomenon will occur when checking any wheel end, even those equipped with conventional bearing sets.

Bearing Replacement and Drum Installation

1. Once the drum and bearing assembly is removed from the axle, remove "internal" snap ring from the bearing bore that retains bearing.
2. Using an arbor press and mandrel, press the bearing out of the drum. Bearing will exit on the wheel side of the drum.
3. When replacing a Nev-R-Lube® bearing pack, the bore in the hub should be cleaned and inspected for visual damage (replace as necessary).
4. Install the new bearing using an arbor press fitted with a hollow or stepped punch face to press only on the outer housing of the bearing. Failure to follow procedure will damage the bearing and/or seals during installation. Press bearing until it seats against the backup shoulder machined into the hub.



5. Install “internal” snap ring into hub.
6. Clean and inspect spindle shaft. Apply a light coating of anti-seize lubricant to the spindle shaft prior to assembling drum.
7. Install drum assembly onto spindle (Do NOT FORCE).
8. Install steel washer onto spindle end.
9. Start self-locking nut onto spindle thread by hand. Complete installation using a 1 7/16" 6 or 12 point socket and torque wrench. Nut should be torqued to **145-155 Ft. Lbs.** (this torque will set the internal bearing adjustment, no other adjustments are to be made).
10. Install “torque instruction” washer onto end of spindle.
11. Install “external” snap ring onto end of spindle to retain washer.
12. Inspect assembly for excessive end play, noise, and rotation restriction prior to mounting final wheel end hardware.