

# Heavy-Duty Holidays

When towing, or transporting a heavy load, vehicle handling can be adversely affected!



As Europe enjoyed one of the hottest summers in years, thousands of holiday makers hooked up their caravans and trailers and took to the open road in search of good times and a relaxing break. With the best of the summer now behind us and most people back from their holidays, many will be pondering how to improve their vehicle handling for next season.

There is no doubt that with a caravan connected, the vehicle fully loaded, and the family in the car the rear of the vehicle will typically sit markedly lower than the front. (See fig 1). Vehicle handling will be adversely affected unless the suspension is changed.

This is because the rear springs have been loaded to levels beyond that for which they are designed, and they are therefore unable to

return the vehicle to its correct ride height. As a result of this 'sitting down' effect vehicle handling will be compromised, and the extra stress on the rear springs may result in sag (long term shortening) and increase the chance of premature breakage. Standard springs are not designed to do a heavy duty job!

To compensate for the additional load and to reduce the 'sitting down'

effect, Lesjöfors have designed a tailor made range of heavy duty springs. Lesjöfors produce and stock a comprehensive range available for same day delivery.

Lesjöfors heavy duty coil springs are 15 to 30% stronger than standard springs, depending on the vehicle, and because they are stiffer they are able to support a heavier load without compromising vehicle



handling. Lesjöfors heavy duty springs are also designed to have a progressive spring rate, meaning that resistance increases as the load increases, allowing heavy duty springs to be used even when the vehicle is unloaded without excessively compromising ride comfort.

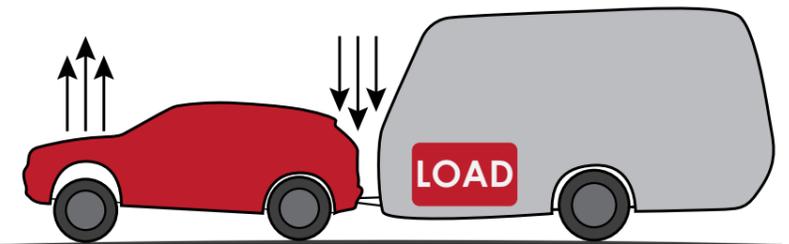


Fig 1. Sitting down due to overloading - the rear of the car is lower than the front, adversely affecting vehicle handling.

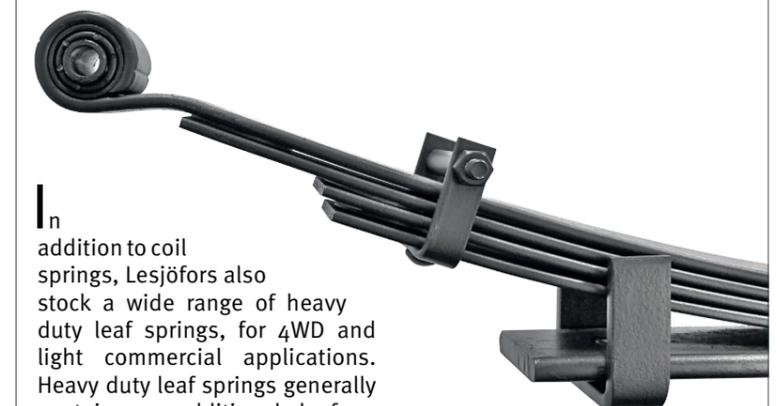
Lesjöfors heavy duty springs work with standard shock absorbers, meaning no further suspension upgrades are required, and most heavy duty springs are designed to be shorter than standard springs to ensure the car does not sit too high when unloaded.

Given their different characteristics to standard springs, it is of course vital that heavy duty springs are fitted in axle pairs to avoid creating a potentially dangerous imbalance. Installing heavy duty springs in pairs, when towing or transporting heavy loads, will secure improved vehicle handling and an appropriate vehicle ride height, avoiding potentially severe safety risks such as less responsive steering, less secure road holding, and increased braking distance.

All Lesjöfors heavy duty coil springs come with a 3 year warranty. The Lesjöfors heavy duty coil spring range covers, amongst others, the following popular models:

- Opel/Vauxhall Astra
- Ford Focus
- Volkswagen Passat
- Renault Espace
- Peugeot 407
- Nissan Primera
- Audi A4
- Opel/Vauxhall Vectra
- BMW 3-Series

## Heavy Duty Leaf Springs



In addition to coil springs, Lesjöfors also stock a wide range of heavy duty leaf springs, for 4WD and light commercial applications. Heavy duty leaf springs generally contain an additional leaf or auxiliary spring, helping to stiffen the spring and allowing a heavier load to be safely transported without the springs becoming flat or inverted due to excessive load.

bushed and ready for installation, supported by our comprehensive range of U-bolts.

The Lesjöfors leaf spring range, together with U-bolts, features almost 200 parts and covers more than 70 different models, making it one of Europe's most comprehensive collections. Heavy duty spring options are available directly from Lesjöfors' extensive stock and come with 1 year warranty. All are fully

Our heavy duty leaf spring range covers, amongst others, the following popular models:

- Citroen Jumper
- Fiat Ducato
- Mercedes Sprinter
- Mitsubishi Shogun
- Peugeot Boxer
- Toyota Hilux

For further information, visit: [www.lesjofors-automotive.com](http://www.lesjofors-automotive.com)