



## Test Steering Gears Under Pressure

**Application** All Domestic Power Steering Gears

**Problem** After installation of a replacement unit, input shaft free-play seems excessive.

**Cause** Unit must be tested under pressure from power steering pump.

**Solution** Most steering gears will have more free-play around center until power steering pressure is applied to the gear. Follow the test steps below when testing for free-play.

1. Gear must be on mechanical center. Determine center by dividing total turns lock-to-lock in half. If gear is not centered there will be excessive play.
2. Start engine. Be sure pump is producing proper pressure and flow through the gear. If gear is not under pressure, the input shaft (which consists of a torsion bar within the spool valve) will produce play. When under pressure, the fluid compensates. With no pressure applied, input play can exceed 5 degrees.
3. Test unit.

If free-play persists, be sure coupler is good, it is firmly tightened to the shaft, suspension components and linkages are serviceable, and tires are correct for the vehicle and properly inflated.



**Note**

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