

.....Camshafts.....



HHP Buying Guide: Camshafts

Do you want good engine power? Great fuel economy? I think it's fair to assume we all do. Well, the camshaft plays a big role in whether or not you're getting the power and fuel economy you want. The camshaft controls the amount of air and fuel that enters the cylinder and impacts the overall efficiency of your engine.

..... Diesel Camshafts Explained

A camshaft is made of a series of lobes that open and close the valves. A new camshaft can help restore horsepower and torque, and improve overall fuel economy. A worn cam can have a large effect on the way your engine runs—just .001 of an inch of wear can have as much as a 3 degree effect on your valve timing. This is a huge effect, and severely hinders your overall engine functionality.

Because of this, it's important to evaluate whether or not your camshaft is working properly. If you feel as though you're no longer getting the same power from your engine, it might be time to start shopping for a new camshaft. HHP offers a large selection of quality aftermarket camshafts, both new and refurbished, and we're ready to help find the camshaft that best fits your engine!

[Click here](#) to take a look at our camshafts.

The below video also goes into detail about purchasing camshafts:



..... Signs a Camshaft May Need to be Replaced

A worn or damaged camshaft might be causing serious problems in your engine. To maintain your engine and get the best performance, check and see if your camshaft needs to be replaced. Some things to look for:

- Make sure that your camshaft is straight. A bent cam will not operate correctly and can cause damage to other components of your engine
- Take a look at your lifters/followers. Issues on the lifters can diagnose a larger problem with the camshaft. For example, chips in the lifters can indicate that there is excessive camshaft movement in the block
- Look at the lobes. Excessive wear or pitting will result in a loss of power and fuel economy. Extreme damage can indicate a larger issue

Some camshaft issues are hard to diagnose without the proper tools. For more information on this and whether your camshaft might need to be replaced, check out [our past blog](#).

..... What to Look For When Purchasing a Camshaft

When purchasing a camshaft, whether new or remanufactured, you want to make sure it's the right one for your engine. Here are a few things to think about as you shop:

- Keep in mind what purpose your engine serves on a daily basis—the different amounts of lift different cams provide allow for different operating conditions. You want to purchase one that works best for what you need your engine to do
- The camshaft you purchase will need to match the engine type, as well as the other components in terms of applications. It's helpful to have your engine model and serial number handy as you shop
- Both new and remanufactured camshafts should come to you straight and with no visible signs of wear

..... Questions for Your Mechanic

If you think your camshaft may be causing issues in your engine, it might be the time to talk to your mechanic. You might consider discussing some of the following with them:

- I've noticed some general wear on my camshaft. How is this affecting my overall engine performance?
- Would replacing my current camshaft help optimize my engine performance?
- Would my cam be an acceptable core? To learn more about what makes an acceptable core, read our past blog, [How Do I Know if My Camshaft is a Good Core?](#)
- What type of camshaft is best suited for my specific engine? Try to give your mechanic as much information as possible about the type of operating conditions your engine is put through so they can be as thorough as they can. Our certified techs would also be happy to work with you on this at 844-215-3406.

..... OEM vs. Aftermarket Camshafts

The OEM versus aftermarket debate. Do you pay extra for a name you know or take a risk on aftermarket? Many people struggle with this question as they shop for their diesel engine parts, but we're here to help clear up some things for you!

- Price – With OEMs, you're more than likely paying a much higher price point, because they have the luxury of name recognition, even though they often have another company produce their parts. The price of an aftermarket camshaft is as much as 50% off the OEM price, and at times, the part comes from the same supplier as the OEM.
- Warranty – OEMs often have warranties associated with their parts, but they aren't usually as good as the warranties on aftermarket parts. Many of HHP's parts come with at least a 1-year warranty, showing that our suppliers are so confident in their products, they're willing to guarantee them for longer than the OEMs will.
- Quality – There's no question that quality is one of the biggest concerns when purchasing a new engine part, especially something as important as a camshaft—you want to know it will go the distance. OEMs offer quality parts, there's no doubt about that. But that doesn't mean they're the only ones with quality. As previously mentioned, there are times when the OEM parts and the aftermarket parts come from exactly the same supplier, and even if they don't, the parts we sell are made to OEM specifications, ensuring you get the same quality, if not better. Some manufacturers even make improvements to the original design, so you'll get a part that functions even better than what the OEM produces.

At HHP, we only sell parts from manufacturers whose quality we trust. We won't sell anyone inferior parts.