How to change front suspension strut on VW Caddy 3 van – replacement guide

VIDEO TUTORIAL

ⓘ Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:
VW CADDY III Box Body/MPV (2KA, 2KH, 2CA, 2CH) 2.0 SDI, VW CADDY III MPV (2KB, 2KJ, 2CB, 2CJ) 2.0 SDI

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

REPLACEMENT: SUSPENSION STRUT – VW CADDY 3 VAN. TOOLS YOU MIGHT NEED:

- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Torque wrench
- Combination spanner #10
- Drive socket # 10
- Drive socket # 13
- Drive socket # 16
- Drive socket # 18
- Drive socket # 19
- Drive socket # 21
- Drive socket # 27
- Shock absorber socket
- XZN bit # 14
- HEX bit No.H6
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Tap wrench
- Hydraulic strut spring compressor
- Hydraulic transmission jack
- Fender cover
- Wheel chock

Replacement: suspension strut – VW Caddy 3 van. Tip from AUTODOC:

- Both shock struts of the front suspension should be replaced simultaneously.
- The replacement procedure is identical for the left and right shock struts of the front suspension.
- Please note: all work on the car – VW Caddy 3 van – should be done with the engine switched off.

CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1

Open the bonnet.

2

Use a fender protection cover to prevent damaging paintwork and plastic parts of the car.

3

Remove the seal of the windscreen wiper scuttle tray.

4

Clean the fasteners of the windscreen wiper scuttle tray. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

5

Unscrew the fasteners of the windscreen wiper scuttle tray. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.

6

Remove the windscreen wiper scuttle tray.

7

Clean the fasteners of the shock strut upper mount. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

8

Loosen the upper fasteners of the suspension strut. Use a drive socket #13. Use a ratchet wrench.

9

Secure the wheels with chocks.

10

Loosen the fastener of the driveshaft. Use a drive socket #27. Use a tap wrench.

11

Loosen the wheel mounting bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.

12

Raise the front of the car and secure on supports.

13

Unscrew the wheel bolts.

AUTODOC recommends:

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. VW Caddy 3 van

14

Remove the wheel.

15

Clean the stabiliser link fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

16

Unscrew the fastener connecting the stabilizer link to the shock strut. Use a drive socket #19. Use a ratchet wrench.

17

Remove the stabilizer rod.

18

Clean the brake hose bracket fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

19

Disconnect the brake hose mounting bracket. Detach the ABS wiring harness bracket. Use a combination spanner #10.

20

Clean the lower fastener connecting the suspension strut to the steering knuckle. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

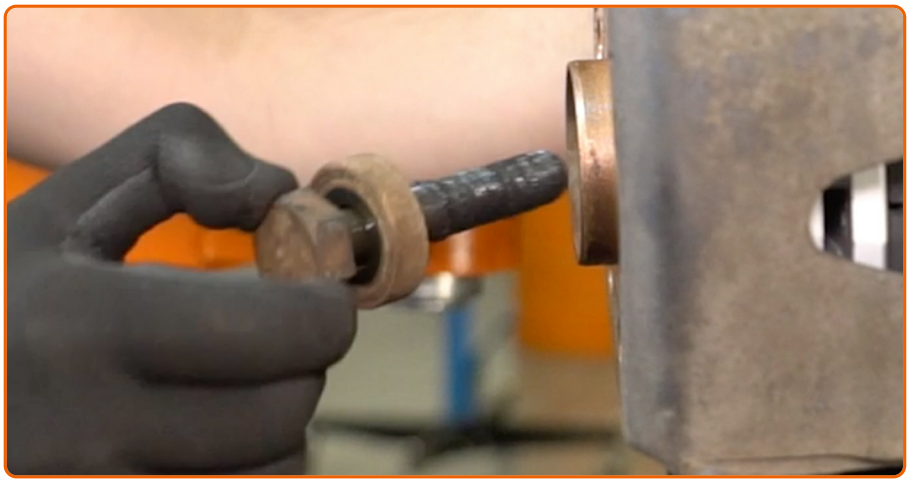
21

Unscrew the lower fastener connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a drive socket #18. Use XZN #14. Use a tap wrench.

22

Unscrew the fastener connecting the drive shaft to the wheel hub. Use a drive socket #27. Use a ratchet wrench.

23



Remove the fastening bolt.

24

Clean the fasteners connecting the ball joint to the suspension control arm. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

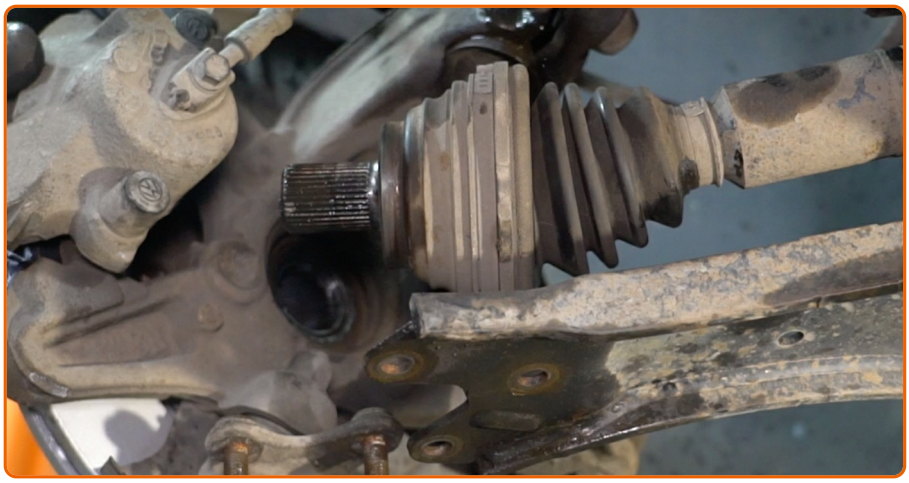
25

Unscrew the fastener connecting the ball joint to the suspension control arm. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.

26

Disconnect the spherical joint from the arm.

27



Detach the driveshaft from the steering knuckle.

Replacement: suspension strut – VW Caddy 3 van. Tip from AUTODOC:

- Make sure that the drive shaft is not unloaded (when the car is jacked).

28

Prop up the steering knuckle. Use a hydraulic transmission jack.

29

Remove the fastening bolt.

30

Release the lower fastener connecting the shock strut to the steering knuckle. Use a special drive socket to remove the shock absorber. Use a ratchet wrench.

31

Disconnect the steering knuckle from the shock absorber strut.

32

Unscrew the upper fasteners of the shock strut.

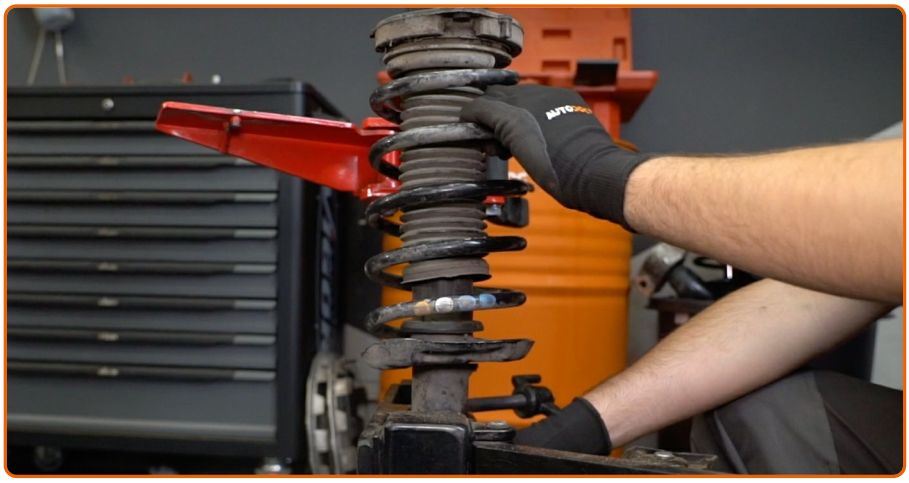
AUTODOC recommends:

- VW Caddy 3 van – To avoid injury, hold the suspension strut while unscrewing the fastening bolts.

33

Remove the suspension strut.

34



Set the shock absorber strut on the spring compressor tool.

Replacement: suspension strut – VW Caddy 3 van. Professionals recommend:

- Note that when using a spring compressor, spring coils need to be securely gripped, compressing the spring on the opposite sides.
- Ensure the correct position of the spring in the retainer.
- Make sure that the spring coils tightly entered the lock handles.

35

Compress the spring.

36

Treat the shock strut rod. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

37

Remove the strut piston rod nut. Use a drive socket #21. Use HEX No.H6. Use a ratchet wrench.

38

Remove the top strut mount.

39

Release the coil spring.

40

Remove the spring.

41

Remove the shock absorber dust cap and the bump stop.

AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW Caddy 3 van. Carefully inspect the mount, the boot, and the bump stop of the shock absorber. Replace if necessary.

42

Remove the old shock absorber from the hydraulic coil spring compressor.

Replacement: suspension strut – VW Caddy 3 van. Tip:

- Before installing a new shock absorber you should pump it manually 3-5 times.

43

Install the new shock absorber on the hydraulic coil spring compressor.

44

Install the spring on the shock absorber.

45

Compress the spring.

46

Install the mount, boot and bump stop onto a new shock absorber.

47

Tighten the shock strut piston rod nut. Use a drive socket #21. Use HEX No.H6. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 60 Nm torque.

Replacement: suspension strut – VW Caddy 3 van. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- Check to make sure the spring is positioned correctly. Avoid its misalignment.

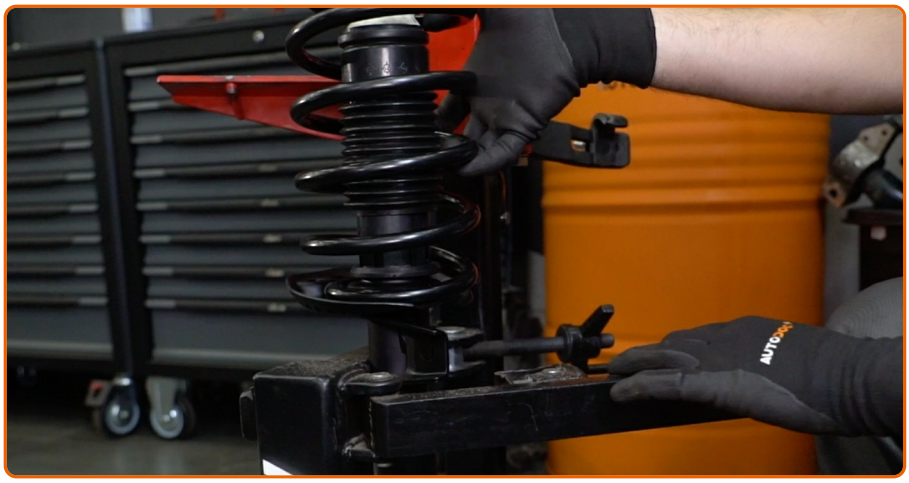
48

Decompress the spring.

49

Treat the shock strut rod. Use copper grease.

50



Remove the assembled shock strut.

51

Treat the shock strut mounting seat on the steering knuckle. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

52

Install the shock strut into the wheel arch.

53

Screw in the top fasteners of the suspension strut mount. Do not tighten it.

AUTODOC recommends:

- VW Caddy 3 van – To avoid injury, hold the suspension strut while screwing in the fastening bolts.

54

Clean the mounting seats of the shock strut. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

55

Fix the shock absorber strut on the steering knuckle.

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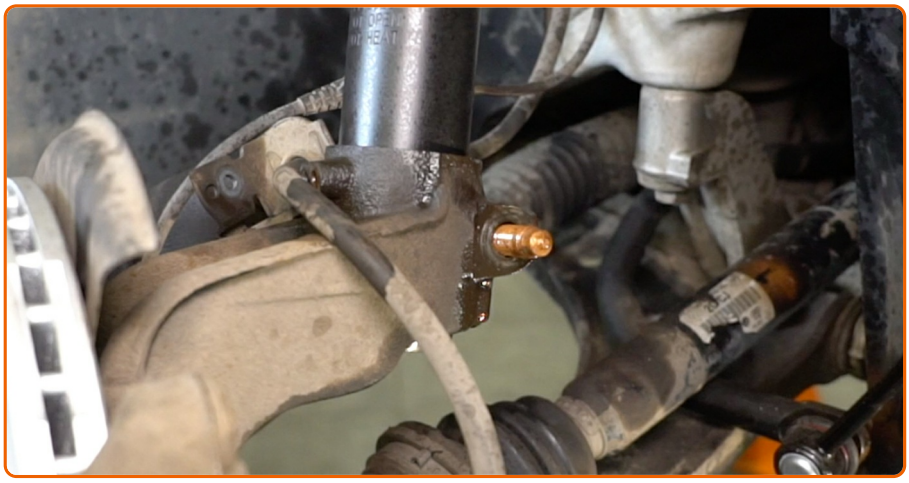


Install the fastening bolt.

57

Remove the support from under the steering knuckle.

AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW Caddy 3 van. Lower the transmission jack smoothly, without jerks, to avoid damaging components and mechanisms.

58

Clean the splines of the drive shaft CV joint. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

59

Clean the ball joint mounting seat. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

60

Install the drive shaft.

61

Attach the ball joint to the control arm.

62

Screw in the fastener connecting the ball joint to the control arm. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.

63

Install and tighten the drive shaft bolt. Use a drive socket #27. Use a ratchet wrench.

64

Tighten the lower fastening of the shock absorber. Use a drive socket #18. Use XZN #14. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 72 Nm torque.

65

Tighten the fasteners connecting the ball joint to the control arm. Use a drive socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 55 Nm torque.

66

Secure the brake hose fastening bracket. Fasten the ABS wiring harness bracket. Use a combination spanner #10.

67

Clean the mounting seats of the stabiliser link. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

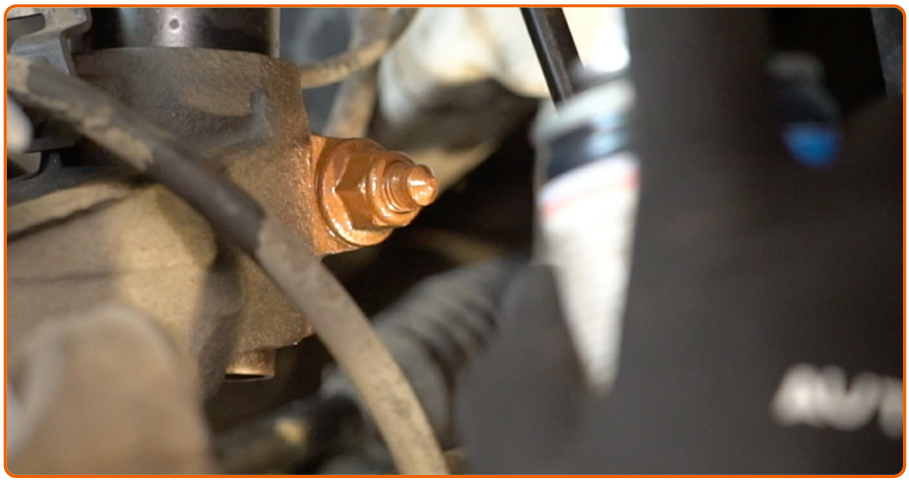
68

Install the transverse stabilizer link.

69

Tighten the fastener connecting the stabilizer link to the shock strut. Use a drive socket #19. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 60 Nm torque.

70



Treat the shock strut fasteners. Treat all joints of the arm. Treat all joints of the stabiliser link. Use copper grease.

71

Clean the wheel rim mounting seat. Use a wire brush.

72

Treat the surface where the brake disc contacts the wheel rim. Use copper grease.

73

Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.

AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: suspension strut – VW Caddy 3 van. After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

74

Install the wheel.

AUTODOC recommends:

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while screwing in the fastening bolts on the car. VW Caddy 3 van

75

Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.

76

Lower the car.

77

Tighten the bolt connecting the drive shaft to the wheel hub. Use a drive socket #27. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 175 Nm torque.

78

Tighten the wheel bolts using a criss-cross pattern. Use wheel impact socket #17. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 Nm torque.

79

Remove the jacks and chocks.

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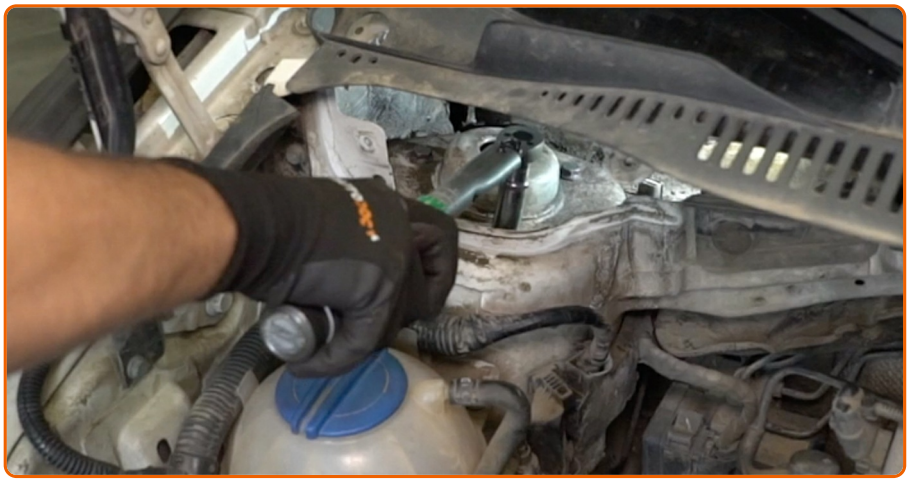

Tighten the upper fasteners of the shock strut. Use a drive socket #13. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 37 Nm torque.

81

Treat the shock strut fasteners. Use copper grease.

82

Install the windscreen wiper scuttle tray.

83

Screw in the fasteners of the windscreen wiper scuttle tray. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 4 Nm torque.

84

Install the seal of the windscreen wiper scuttle tray.

85

Remove the fender protection cover.

86

Close the hood.

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YES NO

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