



DRIVESHAFT COMPONENTS FAILURE ANALYSIS GUIDE

Learn how to identify failed driveshaft components.

Component failures can result from improper maintenance, installation, or assembly procedures. This quick reference poster assists service technicians in recognizing some possible component failures.

How to Identify Failure and Probable Cause

Universal Joints



Burned U-Joint Cross

- Lack of lubrication (improper maintenance)
- Wrong lubrication type
- Improper application

Universal Joints



End Galling

- Excessive u-joint operating angles
- Improper assembly procedures
- Sprung or bent yoke
- Lack of lubrication (improper maintenance)

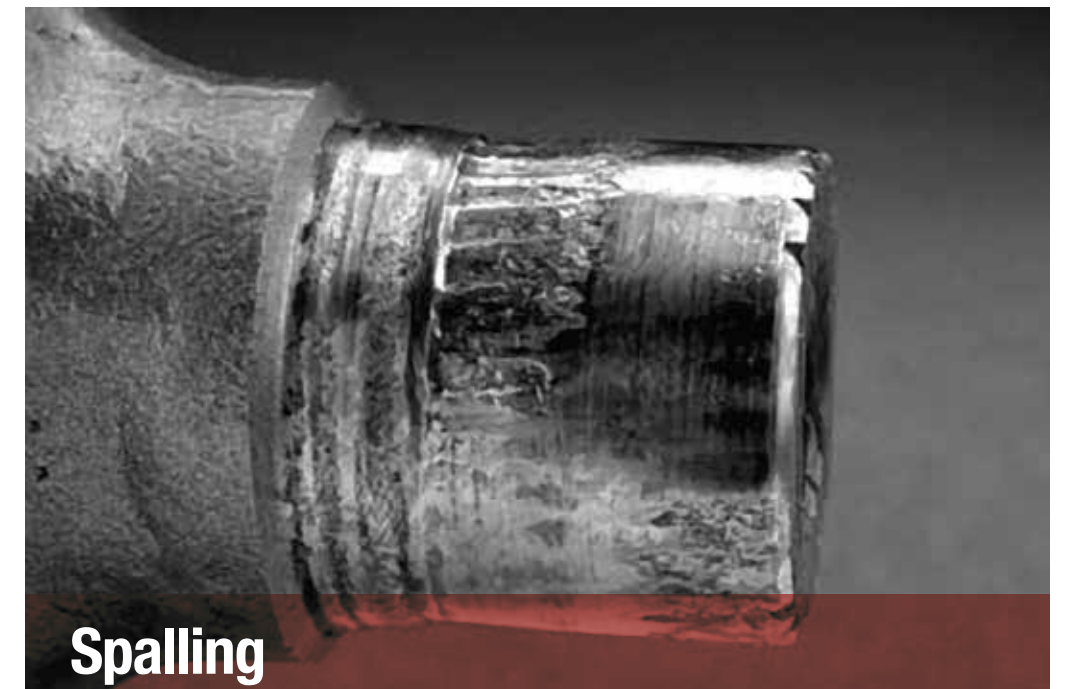
Universal Joints



Brinelling

- Excessive continuous torque loads
- Seized slip yoke splines
- Excessive driveline angles
- Sprung or bent yoke
- Overtightened U-bolts

Universal Joints



Spalling

- Water contamination
- Improper lube type
- Lubrication failure

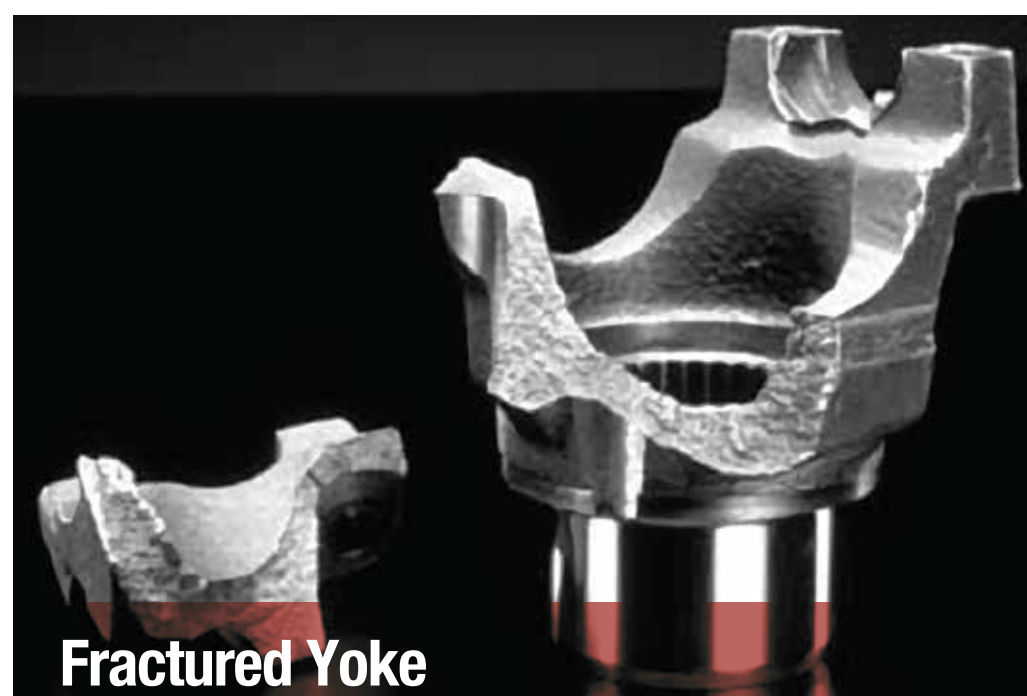
Universal Joints



Fractured U-Joint

- Excessive torque loads
- Shock loads
- Improper application

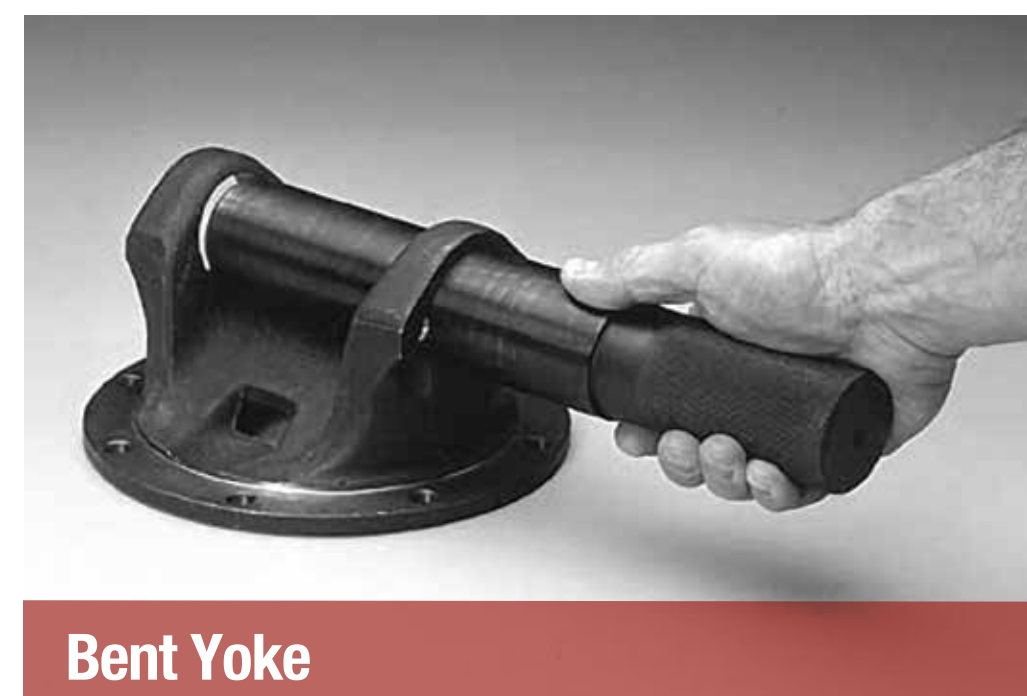
Yoke



Fractured Yoke

- Excessive torque loads
- Shock loads
- Improper application
- U-joint kit failure

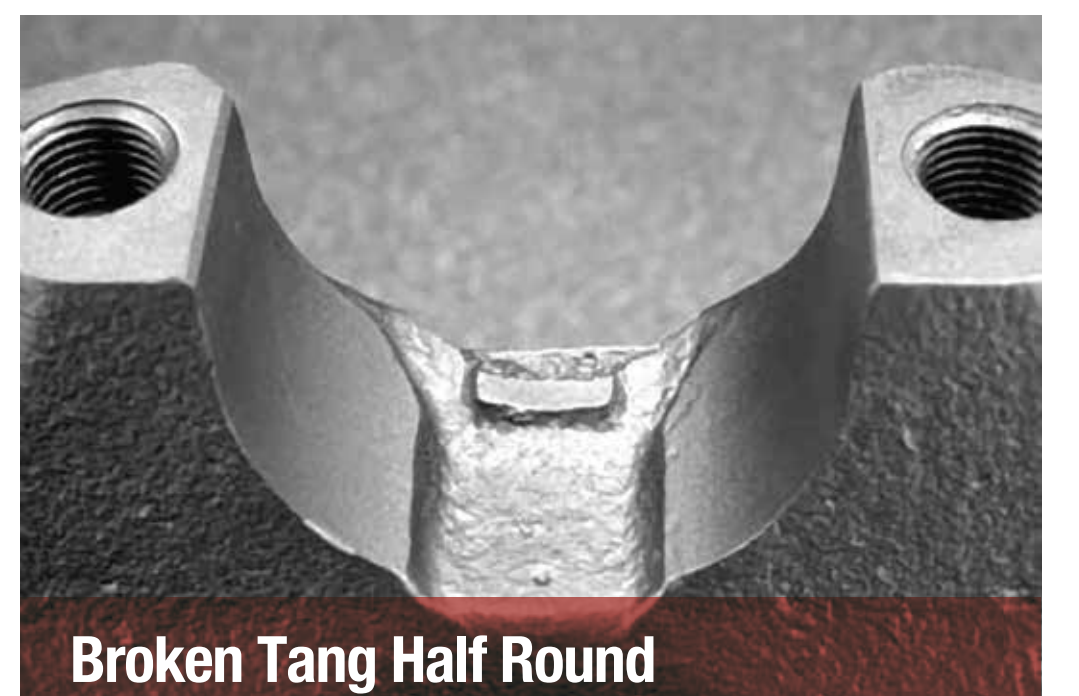
Yoke



Bent Yoke

- Excessive torque
- Improper application
- Improper u-joint removal

Yoke



Broken Tang Half Round

- Improper bearing retainer bolt torque
- Improper installation
- Strap was reused instead of replaced

Tubing



Twisted Tubing

- Excessive torque
- Driving into immovable object under power
- Spinning tires that suddenly grab hold

Tubing



Failed Tubing

- Shock loads
- Improper welding procedures
- Excessive vibration
- Possible torsional vibration problem

Tube Shafts



Fractured Spline

- Excessive torque loads
- Shock loads
- Improper application



⚠ DANGER Rotating shafts can be dangerous. You can snag clothes, skin, hair, hands, etc. This can cause serious injury or death. Do not go under the vehicle when the engine is running.

Preventive Maintenance

Driveshaft inspection should be performed as part of your regular maintenance. Normal vehicle maintenance and recognition of component discrepancies are necessary to prevent serious mechanical problems and avoid driver discomfort. Failure to perform normal maintenance may also void the vehicle warranty.

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Spicer® service parts deliver the same quality used by major original equipment manufacturers. Each component is engineered to work together to offer quality and reliability. Specify genuine Spicer parts for all of your driveshaft repairs.

For detailed servicing instructions, refer www.SpicerParts.com/online-catalog.

Routine Inspection Steps

1. Check the output and input end yokes for looseness.
2. Check for excessive radial looseness of output/input shaft.
3. Check for looseness across ends of u-joint.
4. Check the slip spline for excessive radial movement.
5. Check the shaft for damage, bent tubing, or missing balance weights.
6. Check for a loose or missing slip yoke plug.

