

# Stretch Belts

## Construction

Stretch belts are a unique design with the latest OEM technology in rubber compounds used in conjunction with an internal cord. The cord is designed to elongate and stretch for installation, but recovers to maintain proper belt tension. Stretch belts are slightly shorter than fit length so that when installed, they automatically tension and maintain that tension over the life of the belt.

## The Belt Revolution

Since 2004, automobile manufacturers have been designing belt drives using self-tensioning belts. These drives do not have a mechanical tensioner to maintain constant belt tension and they do not have an adjustment slot that allows belt installation and tensioning. Stretch belts incorporate design technologies that allow the belt to be installed on these fixed drive systems and provide the “self-tensioning” capabilities necessary to maintain proper belt tension in the absence of an automatic tensioner. Although stretch belts look like a standard serpentine belt, they are dramatically different. Stretch belts are not interchangeable with other serpentine belts. Standard serpentine belts should not be used on a drive designed for a stretch belt and, conversely, stretch belts should not be used on drives that incorporate an automatic tensioner.

## How Are Stretch Belts Distinguished?

Stretch Belts are generally differentiated by a unique digit in their part number. Refer to your serpentine belt supplier for a list of stretch belt applications and how to identify them.

## How Are Stretch Belts Serviced?

Typically, stretch belts that are excessively worn or show signs of physical damage are removed by cutting them off. Installation is typically performed with the aid of a low cost tool that allows the stretch belt to be slipped into position. **NOTE: Always refer to ALLDATA or other service information provider for specific information on removal/installation procedures.**

## Stretch Belt Videos:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=DbHumrLIdys&list=PL9C6D040C37C39B7B](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=DbHumrLIdys&list=PL9C6D040C37C39B7B)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=lgj3mKU0CYE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=lgj3mKU0CYE)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRkzBqM4uPU&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRkzBqM4uPU&feature=player_embedded)

## Stretch Tool Example:

<http://www.gates.com/products/automotive/tools-and-sales-aids/professional-tools/microv-stretch-fit-belt-installation-tool>