

## Suspension Stabilization for 15-Passenger Vans

Many rollovers and traffic accidents that involve 15-passenger vans can be attributed to the van's suspension. Due to the van's high center of gravity, sudden maneuvers— particularly at high speeds— can cause the van to roll or drift into other lanes.

Suspension stabilization devices improve a driver's ability to control the van during emergency lane changes and sudden maneuvers. There are several different products on the market, including Hellwig anti-sway bars and helper springs, Roadmaster Active Suspension, and SuperSprings. They cost between \$200 and \$300. A qualified mechanic can install any of these devices in about one hour.

Roadmaster Active Suspension ([www.activesuspension.com](http://www.activesuspension.com)) has an online video (well worth watching) featuring their product in independent tests conducted at the Transportation Research Center in Ohio. In the video, emergency maneuvers are conducted by 15-passenger vans with and without the improved suspension system. Although they don't promise to eliminate rollovers, suspension enhancements can significantly improve a van's safety. Additional claims by Roadmaster are:

- Improve load carrying capacity, like helper springs, but without the usual sacrifice of ride comfort due to added stiffness
- Eliminate bottoming out, like air systems, while never requiring adjusting or applying pressure to points on the frame
- Reduce sway and dangerous body roll on cornering
- Eliminate axle wrap and wheel hop
- Enhance vehicle stability, handling, and control, with or without a load
- Improve fuel efficiency (average of 5-10% savings) when operating under load, and reduce operating cost by extending the life of leaf springs, shocks, shackles, and tires

According to the manufacturer, per the Magnuson-Moss Act, the Roadmaster does not change the original structure of the vehicle from the manufacturing line. Therefore, by law, it cannot void a manufacturer's warranty.