



SUBARU IMPREZA WRX AND STI – Tech Info

Clutch Slipping

If you have a concern about the vehicle's clutch slipping under hard acceleration but drives normally or better under light acceleration, it might not be the clutch.

Recommendation

Before you start to change, or assume there is a clutch issue, you may want to inspect to see if the retaining clip on the inner end of the rear axle shaft has fallen off or not.

Why inspect for the missing clip?

If the clip is missing, the axle shaft can move outward slightly, disengaging the side gear of the rear differential. The wheel bearing retainer assembly will not allow the axle to come out completely.

Since the WRX has a limited slip rear differential (LSD), there is enough drag torque to move the vehicle under light acceleration, but not under hard acceleration.

Determining the root cause

Put the vehicle on a lift or jack stands, start the vehicle and put the transmission into gear. Engage the clutch and see if all four wheels were turning, if there are any wheels not turning, inspect the wheel not turning. ***Pay attention for safety, such as using an extra stand or support to hold the vehicle stable and secure.**

How to repair

Push the axle shaft inward and re-engage the retaining clip, you may need to remove the rear differential cover to re-install the retaining clip. We recommend you inspect the axle shaft and joint assembly carefully for any damage.

NOTE

There have been cases where the vehicle acts as-if the clutch is slipping, but this is caused by the above reason and or bad differential or joint components.