

Date: June 24, 2021

Subject: Product Improvement of Dexter Vortex™ Axle Removable Grease Caps

Dexter has recently made several improvements to the end cap and O-ring assembly for Dexter's Vortex lubrication system. These improvements will enhance product durability, sealing, and product identification. Upgraded caps fit all Vortex axles up to 4,200 lbs. capacity. Axles equipped with Vortex lubrication system have an internally threaded hub, hub-rotor, or hub-drum nose dimensions of 2.33". The original caps, formerly Tie Down part number 48355V, can be identified by their pressure-sensitive label with the Vortex product identification or a similar Vortex identification molded into the cap.

Old Cap:

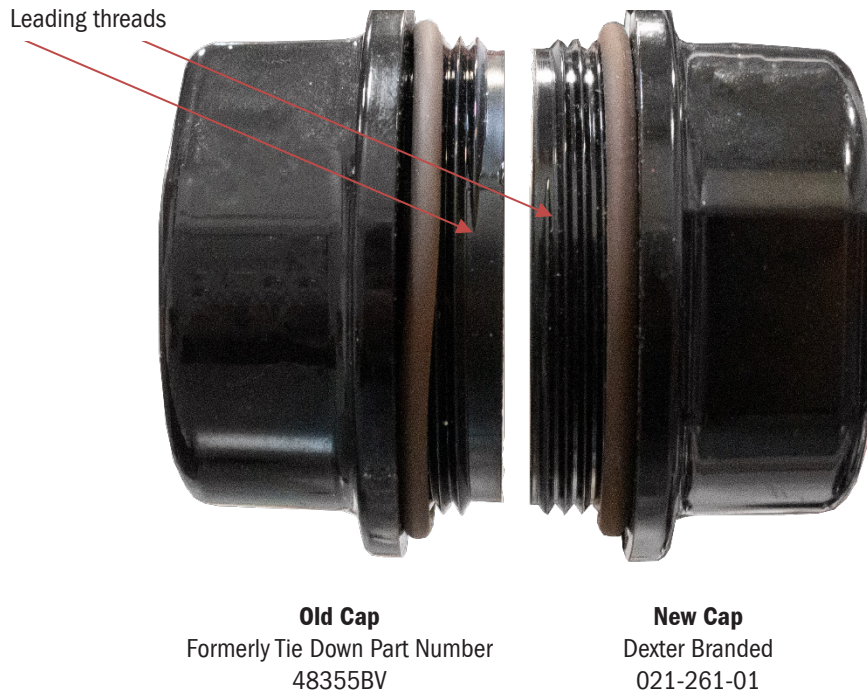


The new caps, Dexter part number 021-261-01 can most easily be identified by their new Dexter branding and the wording "VORTEX™ High Performance Lubrication" molded into the cap.

New Cap:



The new cap utilizes improved tooling and enhanced material. These changes increase cap strength and provide improved resistance to the elements and the operational environment. The cap threaded nose has been re-dimensioned to ease cap installation into the axle hub during service. In addition, the new cap assembly includes a new O-ring with dimensions of 2.11" x 0.14" for superior cap torque retention and sealing characteristics. This upgraded 021-261-01 cap assembly is a running change applied to newly manufactured axles and cap assemblies sold separately in service parts kits. The 021-261-01 cap assembly can also replace caps on prior axles that used the 48355BV cap.



The Vortex cap on the right incorporates the improved thread dimensions, with the most visually apparent feature being the leading thread positioned closer to the nose of the cap.

The caps are installed initially by hand in clockwise rotation, square into the hub to prevent cross-threading. Continue rotating the cap by hand until the O-ring is snug between the hub nose and cap. Then finally, tighten the cap only an additional quarter to half turn with a wrench via the wrench flats molded into the cap. Installation of the improved cap is similar to installing an automotive oil filter.

In the unlikely event there is difficulty installing a Vortex cap, determine which cap you have using the photograph above. Please contact csdexter23@dexteraxle.com or 470-809-7134 for installation advice regarding the cap if you have the cap pictured on the left. Please contact your Dexter Account Manager for additional information and questions.



Jay Klinkerman
Market Manager