

Common Timing Belt Problems, Causes & Solutions

Problem	Likely Cause	Potential Solution
Excessive tooth wear/shear	Shock loading, poor tension, misalignment	Check tension, alignment, + belt load limits, verify belt/pulley compatibility, remove debris
Worn belt edges	Obstruction, misalignment, improper tracking	Check tracking + alignment, remove debris, inspect for pulley damage, consider self-tracking belts
Degraded/cracked belts or backings	Temperature/chemical exposure, improper storage, undersized pulleys	Verify pulley minimum diameter requirements, check belt exposure compatibility, properly store parts
Snapped or stretched belts	Overloading, poor tensioning, improper belt/pulley size, poor handling	Confirm belt load limits, check tension, verify pulley minimum diameter requirements
Tension members sticking out	Over tensioning, misalignment, improper pulley size, shock loading, back bending stress	Check tension + alignment, verify pulley minimum diameter requirements and belt load limits
Tooth skipping	Poor tension, mismatched components, debris, worn equipment	Check tension, verify belt/pulley compatibility, inspect for wear, clear debris
Belts running hot	Misalignment, poor tension, mismatched components, friction	Check tension + alignment, consider nylon belt coatings
Excessive vibration	Misalignment, weak drive structure, pulley imbalance, debris	Check alignment, inspect drive structure, remove debris, consider BAT(K) or self-tracking components

Maintenance Tips

- ☐ Check belt tension + alignment regularly
- ☐ Routinely inspect for cracks, wear, or unusual damage
- ☐ Keep the drive clean and free from debris
- ☐ Monitor heat and chemical exposure
- ☐ Create belt + pulley replacement schedule

Helpful Tools



SM5 Tension Meter



Online 3D Configurators



Chemical Compatibility chart



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Need Help?

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NOTE: Actual maintenance and repair best practices are unique to individual applications. This is for informational purposes only.