

Driver Seat Problems on Ford E450's

Information compiled January 27, 2006

The Question: Has anyone had issues with the driver seats in the Ford E-450's failing? If so, what did you do about it?

Clallam Transit says... Over a hundred thousands miles and no problem.

Columbia County Public Transportation says... We have not had any issues with these seats other than a tear on the driver seat back on the aisle side of the bus, due to the driver sliding out that side.

CUBS says... I did a quick review; we have replaced one lower seat frame with tracks (can't remember why) and 3 upper frames in the vans. We have repaired seat frames when we recover a seat, but I only found 2 instances of that and they didn't specify lower or upper frame. That's all for of our active vans. We have more trouble with the lumbar support frame in the upper seat frame breaking.

Everett Transit says... Several years ago we had a issue with some of our ford vans/paratransit vans seats breaking down and failing. The failure was the left upper back side and the left side of the seat cushion.

Intercity Transit says... I spoke with one of our mechanics and he indicated we had some problems with the seat pedestal. The replacement unit is much stronger and is reinforced in the problem areas. Ford should have made a stronger unit, but like with most things they lightened it up in an attempt to reduce cost. Also, I am sure when Ford tested the seat, it was not in a transit environment. Please let me know if I can be of more assistance.

Jefferson Transit says... I do not have any information to offer.

Link Transit says... We have experienced some structural failures in the OEM seat backs. On several occasions, we have had to disassemble the seats and repair in-house. This issue seems to be caused by very tall operators pushing back on the seats in an effort to gain more leg room. To date, I am not aware of any seat bottom "pedestal" failures at our property.

Pullman Transit says... The two E-450 vans that we have are too new to have had this problem. All of my other E vans have not had any problems in that area.

Skagit Transit says... We have not had any problems with our E450 seats as of yet. Are you going to send out an e-mail tell us all what you have found out from all of us? I would like to know what are some of the problems others are having so I can be proactive and look for them now.

Spokane Transit says... We have not had a problem with the seats failing. Our seats are not OEM Ford. Our seats were manufactured by Freedman Seating and installed in the Ford E450's. Sorry, not much help for you.

Whatcom Transit says... These OEM Ford seats do not hold up well in transit duty (8-10 hours a day, constant in and out, and multiple drivers). At Whatcom we find that the foam padding breaks down and needs to be rebuilt. We have also had to re-weld seat frames.

For several model years Ford required that the paratransit bus makers retain the OEM seats due to concerns with the airbag deployment zone. Ford now allows use of an aftermarket seat. We are specing the Recaro LXF on our next order.

I don't know if you have heard from Everett Transit. They have extensive experience, including driver L&I claims and conflicts with Ford factory on this issue.

Yakima Transit says... We have no Ford F-450s.