



“It Just Broke!”

The most frequent answer to my questions about troubled equipment is usually, **“I don’t know, It just broke”**. While I will acknowledge the possibility that in specific cases we may be able to go from a perfectly good operating piece of equipment to a non-usable apparatus is conceivable, but I will add that it is highly unlikely. Perhaps a rail could break if a particularly large force is exerted, or maybe a tire could hit a pothole and puncture, but in most cases, there would be some type of outside force that is exerted to cause the break.

Gymnastics equipment breaks for only three reasons.

- It was made wrong
- It was made of the wrong material
- Use or misuse



Most manufacturers warranties cover the first two but not the third, hence the phrase “warrantied against materials and workmanship”. Most are not warrantied for any type of use and they are certainly not warrantied against the following.



- Your expectations
- To last as long as your neighbors
- To last regardless of use or lack of care and maintenance.
- To last until your budget to replenished with enough funds to fix it or replace it.



If you’ve been to any of my Gym Care presentations at either regional or national congresses, you will remember, gym equipment, like cars, cell phones, and computers have a limited life span and a needed level of care. And all gymnastic equipment will give you signs, it will talk to you which is only good if you are listening.

The analytics behind warranties determine their lengths of coverage and specific exclusions. Therefore, your auto warranty excludes tires and wiper blades. It also explains the limitation that are place on warranties. Some are even conditions that the manufacture doesn’t really expect you to follow. Your 100,000 mile warranty is good as long as you change your oil every 3,000 miles at the designated dealership. Who actually does that?



"Not for YOUR lifetime, just for ITS..."

All gymnastic equipment will wear out based on use. You can extend its life with care. Expectation that you can get something replaced under warranty is not a good strategy for gym care. A regular schedule of gym care and maintenance is the best preventative medicine to make your equipment last. Warn of overused spots on you mats indicate that perhaps the mats need to be rotated or moved to another spot in the gym. Regular checks of fittings and cables will give you hints on what should be adjusted, fixed, or replaced before it “Just Breaks”!

Steve

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PS. If you're looking for ways to extend the life of you pit cubes and are considering covering them, send me an email and I will send you 10 cube covers for free so you can see how they go on and how they would look. Email to Steve.cook@fotlinc.com.