

Let's remove ride height, and target performance only, what is optimal?

Perfect—this is where you really dial it in. This **test-drive checklist** will let you tune your 2020 Ford Ranger with Eibach coilovers to near “OEM engineer” level feel in just a couple iterations.

Step-by-Step Test Drive Protocol

Do this loop after setting your baseline (~6-7 turns down):

1. Smooth road (30-50 mph)

What to feel:

- Steering stability
- Subtle body motion

Good:

- Truck feels planted, no wandering

Problems:

- **Floaty / loose / slight oscillation**
Reduce preload (**go DOWN 1 turn**)
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2. Long dips / highway undulations

(This is where “wallow” shows up)

Good:

- Truck compresses → returns → settles immediately

Problems:

- **Bounce or 2nd oscillation after dip**
Go **DOWN 1 turn** (more droop = better control)
 - **Front feels tight / skips over dip**
Also go **DOWN 1 turn** (too much preload)
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3. Sharp bumps / potholes

Good:

- Firm but controlled impact
- No harsh “crack” or slam

Problems:

- **Harsh / jarring hit**
Usually too much preload → go **DOWN 1 turn**
 - **Bottoming (hard thud, rare)**
Go **UP 1 turn**
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4. Expansion joints / repeated bumps

Good:

- Controlled, single movement per bump

Problems:

- **Bouncy / pogo effect**
Go **DOWN 1 turn**
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5. Braking + acceleration

Good:

- Controlled nose dive, no rebound bounce

Problems:

- **Dives then “floats” back up**
Go **DOWN 1 turn**
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Adjustment Logic (simple rules)

After testing:

- 80% of issues = **too much preload**
- Solution most of the time = **go LOWER**

Only go **UP** if:

- You clearly feel bottoming
 - Or suspension feels too soft under big hits
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Dial-in strategy (fastest method)

1. Start: **~7 turns down from 3"**
2. Drive full test loop
3. Adjust:
 - Make **1 turn changes only**
4. Repeat once or twice

You'll usually nail it within **2-3 iterations**

What "perfect" feels like

When you hit the sweet spot:

- Truck feels **planted at speed**
- No extra bounce after dips
- Impacts feel **controlled, not harsh**
- Steering feels **tight and confidence-inspiring**

The "wallow" is completely gone.

⚠ Final pro tips

- Always adjust **both sides equally**
- Re-check after **1-2 days of driving** (it will settle slightly)
- Do alignment after final setting