

Properly Remove a Caliper You Are Reusing

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Vehicles Involved: All

Condition: Vehicle Needs New Brake Pads, but Caliper Is OK to Reuse

It is important to closely inspect a caliper during a brake inspection before you determine that it is ok to reuse. Make sure to check for ripped caliper boots and if the caliper is leaking.

But don't stop there. It is important to inspect the caliper piston to make sure the square cut seal is still working. See our bulletin titled [Checking Caliper Piston Operation](#) to learn more about this process.

Repair Procedure:

Once you have determined that the caliper is good to reuse, you need to remove the caliper. Many technicians push the caliper piston in without clamping off the brake hose during removal. This is not a good idea. The brake fluid near the caliper is the dirtiest fluid in the brake system. Dirt and debris congregates here since it is the lowest point of the brake system.

If you don't clamp off the brake hose, you risk pushing dirty brake fluid back up into the ABS system. This can lead to problems with your brake system, including a low brake pedal and brake pull. Clamping off your brake hose before pushing the piston in will prevent this problem.

Proper Caliper Removal Steps:

- 1.) Apply an approved clamp to the brake hose. Do not use locking pliers. They will damage the hose (See Figure 1).
- 2.) Open the bleeder screw.
- 3.) Use a C-Clamp to push the piston back. Make sure to use a tube or bucket to catch the fluid.
- 4.) Once removed, hang the caliper from an appropriate tool. Don't let the caliper hang from the hose.



Figure 1