

Brake Hose Inspection Checklist

Date: 11-14-18

Vehicles Involved: All

Condition: Vehicle in for Brake Inspection

Brake hoses do not have a recommended replacement interval. It is up to you properly inspect the brake hoses and diagnose any potential issues.

The first step is to do a visual inspection of the brake hoses (see Image 1). Make sure to look for the following:

1. **Cracks or Physical Damage:** Run your hands over the hose and check for any physical damage. Flex the hose and make sure there aren't any cracks.
2. **Leaks:** Make sure that the brake hose isn't leaking brake fluid.
3. **Blisters:** Have someone pump the brake pedal and look for any changes in the shape of the brake hose.
4. **Signs of Corrosion:** Look for corrosion on the brackets/mounting hardware. Rust on these brackets can cause the bracket to clamp down and constrict the brake hose.

EXTERIOR BRAKE HOSE ISSUES

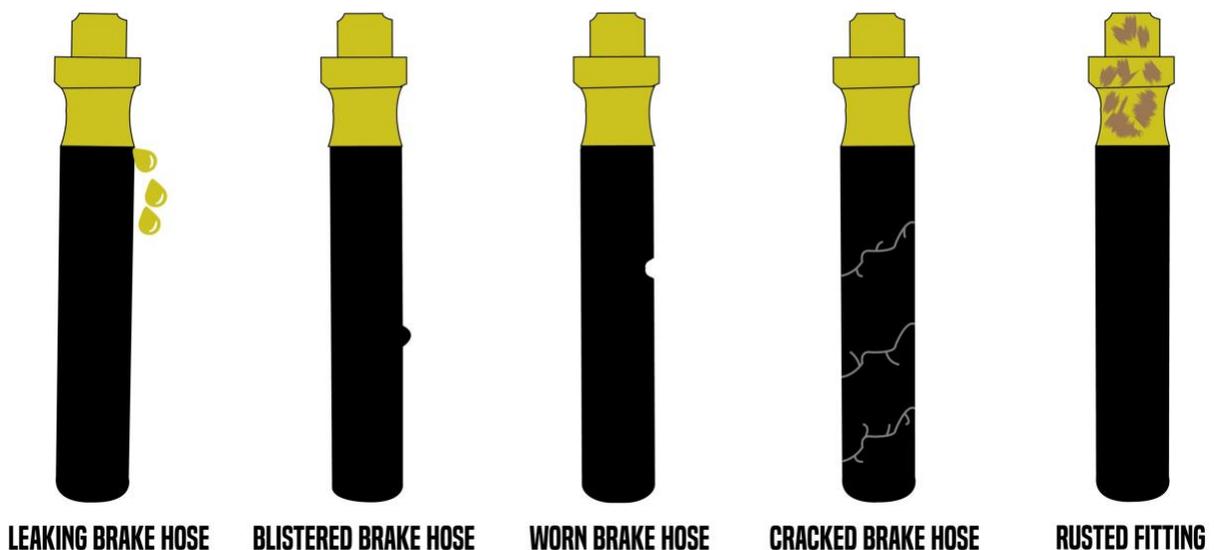


Image 1

If you notice any of the issues above, you will need to replace the brake hose(s).

Many technicians will stop after an external inspection of the hose. But an external inspection won't tell you if there is an internal brake hose restriction (See Image 2).



Image 2

If the brake hose has a restriction, there is enough pressure from the master cylinder for the brake fluid to pass through the restriction and apply the brakes. However, the square cut seal of the caliper doesn't generate enough pressure to push the brake fluid back up stream. This means the brakes will remain applied, causing issues like brake drag, premature wear and overheated brakes.

To check for a brake hose restriction, simply open up the bleeder screw of the caliper and see if the brakes gravity bleed. If the brake fluid bleeds normally, there is no problem inside the brake hose. If the fluid is dripping irregularly, that is a sign of a brake hose restriction. If this is the case, you will need to replace the brake hose(s).