

Preventing a Frozen Brake Cable

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Vehicles Involved: All

Condition: Parking Brake Cable is Frozen

If you have a parking brake that won't release, chances are it is the result of a frozen brake cable. If you don't use your parking brake on a regular basis, rust and corrosion begins to form on the cable. If enough rust builds up, the cable may stick in place or freeze when you use your parking brake.

Repair Procedure:

The best way to avoid a frozen brake cable is to use your parking brake every time you drive. Activating the brake cables on a daily basis helps protect against the formation of rust.

Most Raybestos brake cables have a plastic coating around the metal parts of the cable. This coating protects the metal parts from the elements. Additionally, most of these cables have a small rubber wiper that cleans off the cable as it moves (See Figure 1). These features defend brake cables against the harmful effects of corrosion.



Figure 1

If your brake cable is frozen, your parking brake won't be able to release. You may be able to release it after applying and releasing your brakes several times. However, this is only a temporary fix. The problem is likely to re-occur if you use your parking brake again. The only permanent solution for a frozen brake cable is to replace it.