

## **Clogged Brake Hose**

**Date:** 05-29-18

**Vehicles Involved:** All

### **Condition: Premature Brake Wear, Dragging Brakes, Overheated Brakes**

Recently, a vehicle came into our shop with a complaint of overheated brakes. Normally, with overheated brakes, there is a problem with the caliper. This is also the case with premature brake wear and dragging brakes.

However, even if you are confident in what the problem is, always follow the proper inspection procedures to confirm your thoughts.

### **Repair Procedure:**

With this vehicle, we were confident that a failed square cut seal was causing the brakes to overheat. After inspecting the caliper, we saw that the piston was not retracting when we released the brake pedal. At this point, it would have been easy to diagnose the problem as a failed square cut seal and to replace the caliper.

However, as an extra step, we decided to gravity bleed the calipers to confirm there wasn't a restriction in the hose. We noticed that the brakes were not bleeding properly. We removed the hose and found that the hose was clogged. The hose was allowing high-pressure fluid to apply the brakes, but not allowing the piston to retract.

Figure 1 and Figure 2 show the hose cut in half and a paper clip attempting to push through the hose. The paper clip could not push all the way in. In this case, the metal crimp may have rusted and actually choked the rubber hose.

To sum it up, don't make assumptions when diagnosing brake conditions. If we went with our initial assumption of a failed square cut seal, the vehicle would have returned in a few days with the same problem. By taking the extra step to gravity bleed the brakes, we were able to correctly diagnose the problem and save a comeback.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**