

Raybestos Bulletin 20-02

The Importance of Using OEM-Matched Aftermarket Pads

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Vehicles Involved: Disc Brake Vehicles

Condition: Lip Formed on Front Brake Pads

We were recently doing a brake job on a Hummer H3. When we pulled the front pads off, we noticed that one of the pads was not making proper contact with the rotor. Part of the pad was riding higher than the rotor, which caused a lip to form on the pad (See Image 1).



Figure 1

We went through several diagnostic steps before we found the actual problem.

The first thing we thought might be causing the issue was the hardware pins that the pads slide on. When these pins get worn out, it can cause the pads to ride up and down in the caliper. This could lead to a lip forming over time. However, upon inspection, the pins were not worn out and the pads were sliding smoothly on them.

The next thing we checked was the rotor fit. We thought that the last person to work on this car might have installed the wrong rotor. However, inspection quickly showed that the right rotor was installed.

Finally, when we looked at our Raybestos brake pads that we were going to use for the brake job, we discovered the problem. The pads that were on the vehicle were not OE-matched pads.

At first glance, the pads looked fine. The backing plates were OE-matched. The shape was right. However, we noticed that the friction puck itself rode up to the top of the backing plate.

Looking at our Raybestos OE-matched pads, we noticed about a quarter-of-an-inch gap between the puck and the top of the backing plate (See Figure 2). That extra quarter of an inch of friction material on the old pads caused improper pad-to-rotor contact.



Figure 2

Repair Procedure:

This is a great illustration of why it's important to buy from quality manufacturers like Raybestos. We take the time to study OE pads and manufacture our pads to ensure proper fit, form and function.

While this example didn't cause any problems with the brake performance, it is a fine line to walk. Manufacturers who don't pay attention to the details may be compromising driver safety down the line.