

Checking and Testing for Faulty Brake Hoses

Brake professionals determine the safe working life of a brake hose by visual inspection and “feeling” the hose.

The Correct Method to Test Brake Hoses



1. Have the engine running for maximum boost



2. Have someone pump the brake pedal while someone else inspects the hose

The most effective way to look for faulty brake hoses is to check them when they are under extreme pressure. WHY?

Imagine brake hoses as arteries in the human body. A person could live a normal life with hard

and restricted arteries, but it's when they exert their heart to some stress that symptoms arise.

The same applies to brake hoses. Brake hoses could appear “OK,” but when they are subjected to extreme pressure in an

emergency, they need to be in good condition to handle this sudden stress.

Most booster assisted braking systems can reach pressures of approximately 1500 psi.

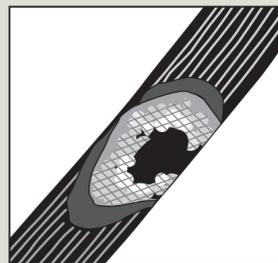
Visual Inspection of Hose and Installation

Things to look for:

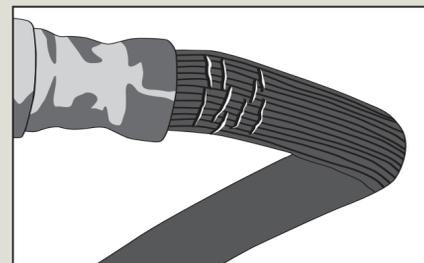
1. Cracks in the outer skin of the hose
(May need to bend hose for this test)
2. Blisters or bubbles in the hose
3. Chafe marks from the hose rubbing against something
4. Wet stains where the hose is starting to leak
5. Obvious bulging or expansion of the hose
6. Loose hose mounts or twisted hose*



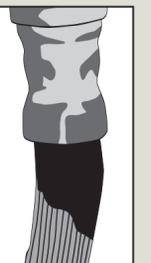
Twisting*



Chafing



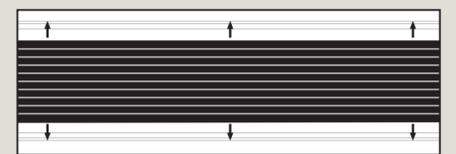
Cracking



Leaking



Bubble



Expansion

* All brake hoses have two continuous lines of printing on the hose to make it easy for the installer to tell if the hose is twisted.

Inspecting the Hose through “Feel”

What to feel for:

(The best way to get the “feel” is to feel a new hose first.)

1. Hoses that are hard and stiff
2. Hose expansion should be barely noticeable under pressure
3. Hoses that are soft and weak



Brake hoses with the conditions above are past their safe working life and should be replaced.

If signs of deterioration are found on the external “skin” of the hose, this is also an indication that the internal parts of the hose have also deteriorated.

Generally brake hoses on a vehicle deteriorate at the same rate. If one brake hose is found to be faulty, all hoses should be replaced.