Installation Procedures

Brake Pad Bedding Procedure

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Proper Brake Pad Bedding Procedures

Often overlooked, proper brake pad bedding (break-in) is essential to the performance and longevity of your new brakes. Taking the time to properly bed in your brake pads will allow them to perform at their full potential. We recommend replacing your brake rotors when you replace pads, but resurfacing your used rotors is an option as long as they meet minimum thickness recommendations. The complete bedding in of brake pads is a process that usually takes between 300-500 miles depending on the type of driving you do, but following the recommended procedure directly after installation is of utmost importance.

In simple terms, bedding your brake pads allows the pads to mate with the rotors uneven surfaces. Even brand new brake rotors are covered with microscopic scratches, grooves, and imperfections that must be worn down to create as much surface area as possible for the pads to come in contact with. As your brake pads bed in, they contour to fit every imperfection in the rotors. Below are basic instructions to help bed in your brake pads and rotors correctly.

Immediately after installation, you will notice that the first few stops on your new brakes will result in very little braking power. Be careful not to apply the brakes hard enough to overheat the pads or rotors and be very careful not to drive in traffic right away.

Bring the vehicle up to 60 mph and lightly apply the brakes a few seconds at a time to bring them up to temperature. Do not try to stop the vehicle at this time, only to start to bed them in and get them to operating temperature.

After getting them warmed up, make a series of 8-10 near-stops. Do this by firmly pressing the brake pedal from about 60 mph down to about 10 mph ***not*** allowing the vehicle to come to a complete stop. If you allow the vehicle to come to rest, you run the risk of allowing hot brake pad material to imprint to the rotors and inhibit the bed in procedure. Allow a minute or two between near-stops to help regulate brake temperatures. After you have completed these near-stops drive the vehicle at road speed long enough to allow the brakes to cool down, and repeat the series of 8-10 near stops again.

For the next few hundred miles drive normally, trying not to overheat them. Repeated high speed stops will increase the risk of damaging brake pads and rotors permanently, so extra care during break in is recommended.

It is easy to see how your bedding progress is going by looking through your wheel spokes at the brake rotors. In the beginning stages of break in, you will notice uneven and even rough areas on the brake rotors. As break in is completed the rotors will become increasingly smooth and shiny, until they are completely smooth in appearance.