

## **ULTIMATE BRAKE PADS ROTORS MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST**

### **Your Complete Guide to Safe Braking**

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#### **MONTHLY VISUAL INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

##### **Through-the-Wheel Inspection**

- ☐ **Brake Pad Thickness:** Visible pad material is at least ¼ inch thick
- ☐ **Rotor Surface:** Smooth surface with no deep grooves or scoring
- ☐ **Brake Lines:** No visible cracks, leaks, or corrosion
- ☐ **Brake Fluid Reservoir:** Fluid level between MIN and MAX marks
- ☐ **Brake Fluid Color:** Clear to light amber (not dark brown or black)

##### **Warning Signs to Watch For**

- ☐ No squealing or grinding noises when braking
  - ☐ No vibration in steering wheel or brake pedal
  - ☐ Brake pedal feels firm and responsive
  - ☐ No dashboard brake warning lights
  - ☐ Car stops in normal distance
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#### **SEASONAL BRAKE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

##### **Every 6,000 Miles (Every 6 Months)**

- ☐ Visual inspection of all brake components
- ☐ Check brake fluid level and color
- ☐ Test brake pedal feel and travel
- ☐ Listen for unusual noises during braking
- ☐ **Estimated Cost:** \$0-\$25 | **Time:** 15 minutes

##### **Every 12,000 Miles (Annual)**

- ☐ Professional brake inspection

- ☐ Measure brake pad thickness
- ☐ Check rotor thickness and condition
- ☐ Inspect brake lines and hoses
- ☐ Test brake fluid moisture content
- ☐ **Estimated Cost:** \$50-\$100 | **Time:** 45 minutes

#### **Every 24,000 Miles (Every 2 Years)**

- ☐ Complete brake system inspection
  - ☐ Brake fluid replacement
  - ☐ Caliper operation check
  - ☐ Parking brake adjustment
  - ☐ Brake performance road test
  - ☐ **Estimated Cost:** \$150-\$300 | **Time:** 2 hours
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### **EMERGENCY BRAKE PROBLEM PROTOCOL**

#### **CRITICAL - Stop Driving Immediately If:**

- ☐ Grinding or metal-on-metal noises
- ☐ Brake pedal goes to floor
- ☐ Brake warning light is flashing
- ☐ Visible brake fluid leaks
- ☐ Burning smell from wheels

#### **HIGH PRIORITY - Address Within 2 Days If:**

- ☐ Brake pedal vibration or pulsing
- ☐ Squealing noises when braking
- ☐ Longer stopping distances
- ☐ Brake pedal feels spongy
- ☐ Dashboard brake warning light (solid)

## MODERATE - Schedule Within 1-2 Weeks If:

- ☐ Light squealing occasionally
  - ☐ Brake dust accumulation
  - ☐ Brake fluid looks dark
  - ☐ Minor brake pedal travel increase
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## BRAKE PADS ROTORS BUYING GUIDE

### Questions to Ask Your Mechanic

- ☐ What type of brake pads do you recommend for my driving style?
- ☐ Can my rotors be resurfaced or do they need replacement?
- ☐ Do you offer a warranty on brake work?
- ☐ Can I see the old parts before disposal?
- ☐ What's included in your brake service?

### Red Flags When Shopping

- ☐ Prices significantly below market average
  - ☐ No warranty offered on parts or labor
  - ☐ Mechanic won't show you the old parts
  - ☐ Pressure to buy unnecessary services
  - ☐ No written estimate provided
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## BRAKE REPLACEMENT COST TRACKER

### Front Brake Service

- **Brake Pads Only:** \$150-\$400
- **Pads + Rotors:** \$350-\$800
- **Date Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Mileage:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Next Service Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Rear Brake Service

- **Brake Pads Only:** \$120-\$350
- **Pads + Rotors:** \$300-\$700
- **Date Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Mileage:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Next Service Due:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Brake Fluid Service

- **Brake Fluid Replacement:** \$80-\$150
- **Date Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Next Service Due:** \_\_\_\_\_



### BRAKE PAD TYPE QUICK REFERENCE

#### Organic Brake Pads

- **Best For:** Daily commuting, quiet operation
- **Lifespan:** 25,000-40,000 miles
- **Pros:** Low noise, low dust, gentle on rotors
- **Cons:** Shorter lifespan, less heat resistance

#### Semi-Metallic Brake Pads

- **Best For:** Performance driving, heavy loads
- **Lifespan:** 30,000-50,000 miles
- **Pros:** Excellent heat dissipation, durable
- **Cons:** More noise, higher dust production

#### Ceramic Brake Pads

- **Best For:** All-around performance, luxury vehicles
- **Lifespan:** 40,000-70,000 miles

- **Pros:** Low noise, minimal dust, long-lasting
  - **Cons:** Higher initial cost
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## **BRAKE MAINTENANCE REMINDERS**

### **Set Phone Reminders For:**

- ☐ Monthly brake inspection (1st of each month)
- ☐ Seasonal brake check (spring/fall)
- ☐ Annual professional inspection
- ☐ Brake fluid replacement (every 2-3 years)

### **Important Phone Numbers:**

- **Trusted Mechanic:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Emergency Roadside:** \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Insurance Company:** \_\_\_\_\_
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## **SEASONAL BRAKE PREPARATION**

### **Winter Preparation**

- ☐ Check brake fluid moisture content
- ☐ Inspect for salt corrosion damage
- ☐ Test brake performance in safe area
- ☐ Ensure emergency kit includes brake fluid

### **Summer Preparation**

- ☐ Check for brake fade after mountain driving
  - ☐ Inspect for heat damage to components
  - ☐ Verify adequate brake cooling
  - ☐ Plan for increased brake inspection frequency
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## **DRIVING HABITS FOR LONGER BRAKE LIFE**

### **Do These:**

- ☐ Anticipate stops and brake gradually
- ☐ Allow brakes to cool after heavy use
- ☐ Use engine braking on long downhills
- ☐ Maintain proper following distance
- ☐ Remove unnecessary weight from vehicle

### **Avoid These:**

- ☐ Riding the brake pedal
- ☐ Last-second hard braking
- ☐ Overloading your vehicle
- ☐ Ignoring brake warning signs
- ☐ Delaying brake maintenance


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## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **In Case of Brake Emergency:**

- **Call 911 if:** Brakes fail completely
- **Roadside Assistance:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Trusted Mechanic:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Towing Service:** \_\_\_\_\_

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 *Save this checklist to your phone or print it for your glove compartment!*

**Remember: Your brake pads rotors are your lifeline on the road. Regular maintenance isn't just about saving money – it's about saving lives.**

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*Keep this checklist handy and share it with family members who drive. Safe braking saves lives!*