

Brakes Drag

Brake drag is characterized by a steering pull, poor acceleration, and/or poor gas mileage caused by brake activation when the pedal is not depressed. These concerns are can be accompanied by an odor concern.

Brake drag can be caused by:

- Binding or sticking brake system components.
- Misadjusted parking brake mechanism.
- Power booster push rod misalignment or misadjustment.
- Trapped hydraulic pressure caused by:
 - Internal deterioration of brake hoses.
 - Crimped brake lines and hoses.

Brakes Drag Diagnosis

To determine the cause of brake drag, perform the following tests:

- Check for binding or sticking brake components including:
 - Wheel cylinders.
 - Drum brake return springs.
 - Parking brake cables, struts, adjustment mechanisms, and adjustment.
 - Calipers and caliper slide mechanisms.
- Check power booster push rod alignment . (If requires adjustment, replace the booster)
- Check for trapped hydraulic pressure at the affected wheel(s).
 - Raise vehicle on the hoist.
 - Determine which wheel(s) are dragging by turning each individual wheel.
 - Working from the master cylinder to the caliper or wheel cylinder, loosen line and hose connections **until** the residual pressure is released.