
REPLACEMENT BRAKE COMPONENTS

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Let's compare the professions of two neighbors. We'll call them John Smith and Jim Jones.

- John Smith works in a field where he performs maintenance and repairs on systems that are well established. These systems have operated the same way using the same components for as long as anyone can remember. Once John gets his licence to work on these systems, he never has to renew it, and any supplemental training he takes is strictly voluntary.
- On the other hand, Jim Jones works on systems that are constantly being changed and improved. More pages of technical information are printed about these systems than all the pages used to print the phone books of New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles combined. Additionally, every few years Jim must undergo extensive testing to ensure he understands and can work with all the new technology in his field!

Here's the catch; John Smith is a medical doctor, while Jim Jones is an automotive service technician!

As a Ford Brake Service Technician you are always learning just to stay current with the vehicles you service. Think about it, the methods your father used to service the cars of his day are certainly not the way you work on the vehicles of today!

One system that has changed dramatically from your father's time is the brake system. Brakes don't just stop the vehicle anymore, they are advanced vehicle motion control systems.

- Anti-lock brakes (which are found on almost all cars produced today) are computer controlled hydro-electronic systems designed to stop a vehicle while providing maximum steering control.
- Vehicle stability systems (such as the Ford Advance Trac system) use advanced electronics in combination with the brake system to help prevent drivers from losing control.
- Traction control systems combine brake system components and electronic engine management systems to help prevent loss of vehicle control due to wheel spin during acceleration and while driving on slippery roads!
- Panic Assist Braking features sense when a driver has applied full brakes in a panic situation and supplements their efforts by applying maximum brake pressure to the wheels.
- Electronic brake distribution systems automatically sense which wheels need more stopping power for the vehicle loading, and distribute the stopping power as needed.

Staying current in the latest technology will allow you to more quickly and effectively diagnose and service brake system concerns. Remember, the best tool you have for servicing brakes is under your hat!

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