Asbestos-free is a better brake

What makes some friction materials better than others? How you stop depends on how we start: raw materials are all-important.

American Brakeblok now uses asbestos-free organic, semi-metallic and fiberglass-based materials *exclusively*. No asbestos fiber! In fact, American Brakeblok was the first domestic manufacturer to completely phase out asbestos and develop new and better alternatives.

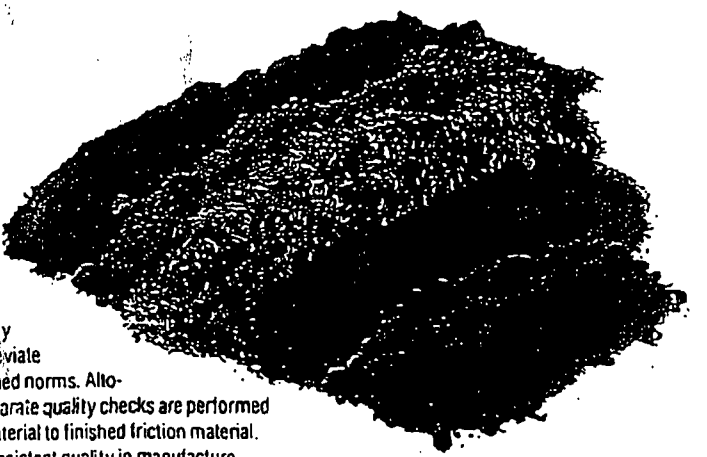
All raw materials used must endure a very rigorous quality assurance program. American Brakeblok has developed its own sophisticated tests—including Thermogravimetric Analysis, Differential Scanning Calorimetry, and Thermomechanical Analysis to guard the quality of each element that goes into friction materials.

Finally, steps are taken so that manufactured friction materials for shoes and pads have the exact same blend of organic materials, resins and metals as the friction materials developed at the test center. This painstaking approach ensures friction materials will deliver the same superior performance on the road as they exhibit in the lab.

Controlling processes for consistent quality...

Computer-controlled systems watch over every stage of manufacture. These systems keep variables such as temperature, pressure, and processing time within very narrow limits. Thermal modeling software is used to simulate manufacturing processes on computer screens; potential problems are corrected before production begins.

Statistical Process Control (SPC) monitors machines and production processes continuously, alerting operators if key parameters deviate from established norms. Altogether, 39 separate quality checks are performed—from raw material to finished friction material. The result: consistent quality in manufacture.



Finally, all friction materials undergo a lengthy two-step curing process. Extra curing time further contributes to consistent performance of shoes and pads—set after set, year after year.

These quality manufacturing steps translate directly into braking consistency. Service dealers can feel confident they're installing the best.

Drivers can feel confident they're getting the best.



...from raw material to finished shoes and pads

NAPA Rayloc's technical experts take American Brakeblok friction materials and turn them into the Professional-Quality drum brake shoes and disc brake pads you can buy anywhere. Here's how:

- Rayloc uses steel plate backings made of the highest quality steel, with plating or rust-inhibiting coatings. Brake shoes are cleaned, then treated with rust inhibitor. The shoe radius is checked with a master gauge to make certain it is precisely the right shape.
- Bonded shoes are produced with high-quality thermosetting adhesives, bonded in special clamps with built-in pressure compensators, then cured in ovens where recording devices monitor the all-important consistency of temperature.
- Still not satisfied, Rayloc puts finished shoes and pads through a tough series of final evaluations, including tests of shear strength and bond dependability.





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