

# **DISC BRAKE TROUBLE TRACER CHART**

## NORMAL WEAR



## **METAL RESIDUE**



Metal residue on friction surface

#### CAUSE

- Water leakage, "quenching" of the rotor causes rotor fragments to break away, transferring them to the friction material
- Particularly noticeable if heavy braking on poorly bedded rotors

#### EFFECT

- Has no detrimental effect on braking performance • May cause rotor damage or brake squeal
- SOLUTION
- In extreme instances, replace rotors and pads



#### **ASHING**

#### **APPEARANCE**

• Partially charred friction material (whitish outer edges)

### CAUSE

- Prolonged excessive pad temperature due to intensive use or dragging
- EFFECT Reduction in initial braking efficiency
- Excessive material deterioration
- Material becomes brittle, chips and cracks
- Excessive abnormal wear

#### SOLUTION

• Providing the damage is not excessive, pads can be used and will be effective under normal use

### GLAZING



- CAUSE
- High intermittent pad temperature for short durations

#### EFFECT

- Temporary reduction in braking performance
- Can be remedied by "normal" use

# SOLUTION

#### **TAPERED PADS APPEARANCE** Uneven wear, tapered pads CAUSE Distorted caliper

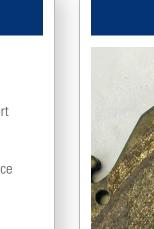
- Caliper slides sticking
- Piston sticking • Excessive caliper clearance
- **EFFECT**
- Premature pad wear
- Uneven braking pressure
- Noise and squeal
- SOLUTION
- Replace pads
- Service or replace calipers
- Replace with new loaded calipers



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## WORN OUT PADS

#### **APPEARANCE**

• Friction material completely worn out

#### CAUSE

• No periodic control of pad wear

- **EFFECT**
- Vehicle may pull to one side • Damage to rotor
- High squeal and noise
- SOLUTION
- Replace pads

#### **CRACKED PADS**

#### **APPEARANCE**

• Small cracks in center of pad

#### CAUSE

- Stress cracks caused by pads flexing • Pads not free to slide in caliper
- EFFECT
- Piston bends in back plate

#### SOLUTION

- Lubricate caliper slides and guide pins
- Replace pads

## SURFACE CONTAMINATION

#### **APPEARANCE**

- Friction material contaminated with oil, grease
- Spillage during maintenance
- Reduction in braking performance



## **UNEVEN WEAR WITHIN A SET**

#### **APPEARANCE**

#### • One pad within caliper set excessively worn CAUSE

• Caliper guide pins / piston sticking

#### EFFECT

• Brakes pull to one side • Uneven, rapid pad wear

#### SOLUTION

- Replace pads and service caliper
- Replace with new loaded calipers

## **UNEVEN WEAR**



#### **APPEARANCE**

- Uneven wear on pad surface
- Irregularly worn brake disc (wear lip)
- EFFECT
- Squeal and brake pedal pulsation Premature pad wear
- SOLUTION
- Replace rotors and pads

## **BACKPLATE DAMAGE**

#### **APPEARANCE**

- Damaged backplate
- CAUSE
- Incorrect assembly • Excessive force used during installation

#### EFFECT

- Reduced braking efficiency, irregular wear, noise and judder
- In extreme instances, products will not fit in the caliner

#### **SOLUTION**

Replace pads

Install premium Wagner Brake products on your next brake job!

## WagnerBrake.com

