

# Tips to Keep Your Brakes in Perfect Condition

## How to stop brake discs rusting

Unless you've got an incredibly fancy and expensive car your brake discs will be made of cast iron. Cast iron is strong and durable and is ideal for the purpose it serves, but it loves to rust! So what can you do about it?

The reality is that there isn't a lot you can do about the actual rusting process, once it starts, it just won't stop, but you can keep your brakes looking in good condition with some high temperature paint.

The actual face of the disc where the pad meets the disc needs to be left alone, and must never be painted or sprayed with anything other than brake cleaner.

## How to stop calipers rusting

As with the discs, once the rust starts there's no stopping it. This is particularly frustrating in the case of brake calipers, as new calipers generally come either in shiny silver or (cadmium plated) gold which looks great... for about a week... So the best solution is to apply some caliper paint.

While you're free to paint them whatever color you like, some would argue that painting a small standard caliper a bright red, or yellow is a little unnecessary, and that a more subtle black, or silver would be more appropriate – but it's your car, your rules.

## How to clean brake discs

If your brake discs need a clean then your best option is to use brake cleaner. This is a strong solvent that conveniently comes in an aerosol can.

Spray over the brakes and the solvent lifts and flushes away brake dust and grease, then quickly evaporates to leave a clean surface beneath. It's worth mentioning that it won't do anything about rust, so don't expect it to clean any corrosion.

## How to clean spilled brake fluid from paintwork

Brake fluid is no where near as corrosive as it used to be, but if you spill it on your paintwork it's still best to clean it up promptly. The best solution is water, and lots of it.

Standard brake fluid is largely made up of polyethylene glycol which, conveniently, is water soluble. Pouring water on it and giving it a wipe with a clean cloth will solve it. If you get any on your clothes, regular detergent and water should suffice.

## How to clean spilled brake fluid from tarmac/paved driveways

So you've bled your brakes and have discovered that you've made a bit of mess on your (or even worse your mate's) driveway by getting brake fluid everywhere. Don't panic. Grab a hose and flush it with copious amounts of clean water. If you've got access to one, a jet wash is preferable.

If it's not all coming off, use some regular car shampoo, and give it a good scrub with a brush, then hose off with lots of water.

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