

Subject: Cleaning Rotors

Vehicle Involved: All

Condition: Machined or new rotors cleaning process to prevent noise issues

Repair Procedure:

Machined Rotors: When cleaning a machined rotor, the best combination is a solution made up of detergent and water. Apply the detergent and water solution to the rotor with a brush or by dipping it into a pail. Rinse the rotor off with water.

The water/detergent does two things, demagnetize the rotor, and removes powdered iron that is generated while machining on brake lathe. This process is effectively used at automotive machine shops

New Rotors: When cleaning a new rotor prior to installation, the same detergent and water solution should be used. All non-coated rotors are dipped in a rust preventative water soluble solution that must be removed along with same finite shavings from manufacturing. Many techs use Brake-Clean which does a great job on greasy fingerprints but does not remove metal shavings present on new uncoated rotors. To verify cleaning process, use white paper or rag across surface before and after cleaning and note gray color. That is metal shavings that would have been embedded onto new brake pad surface causing noise issues.

New Coated Rotors: Good news, true fully coated rotors (not just painted hat) have already gone through a cleaning process before coating, so no cleaning is needed. If there are any grease marks or fingerprints, you can use detergent and water solution or Brake-Clean to clean the surface before installing pads.



Technical Support:

🌐 raybestos.com

✉ techhotline@firstbrandsgroup.com

☎ 800-407-9263

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