

Bulletin BPI 09-05

Subject: Brake Pad Burnishing

Vehicle Involved: All Normal “Street” vehicles

Condition: After replacing brake pads

Repair Procedure: When replacing brake pads, a “break-in” or “burnishing” procedure is recommended to properly condition both the brake pads and brake rotors for best service and long life.

The burnish process, if done correctly, does at least three things to the pads and/or the rotor:

1. Physically and thermally converts the composition of the pad and/or rotor surfaces.
2. Smooths the asperities (roughness, unevenness) of the mating surfaces.
3. Heat cycles the entire pad structure.

For “normal” street service 8 to 10 moderate applications from 40-10 mph is sufficient. Then allow the brakes to cool for at least 15 minutes either by parking the vehicle or continuing to drive at moderate speeds with minimal brake applications.