

Frequently Asked Street Pad Questions

Q: What compound is best for my application?

A: This is highly dependent on the vehicle and expectations of the customer. In most cases we recommend that you reference our product literature, website, or contact us at 800-542-0972.

Q: What causes brake noise?

A: There are literally hundreds of reasons why brake noise occurs and most have nothing to do with brake pads. Improper installation, brake system maintenance, rotor quality and debris tend to be the most common causes.

Sometimes brake squeal can be an indicator that there is a problem. Maintenance is required if you experience brake squeal for any of the following reasons:

- Lack of friction material (brakes need to be replaced)
- Loose fitting brake in the caliper
- Loose fitting or missing brake hardware (i.e. shims, anti-rattle clips)
- Loose lug nuts or caliper hardware
- Debris caught between the rotor and the surface of the brake pad
- Heat-cracked or worn rotors
- Uneven finish on resurfaced rotors

In some cases, a user may experience brake noise when no maintenance is required. We call these NVH (Noise, Vibration and Harshness) issues. Brake squeal is typically caused by vibration between the brake pads, rotors and brake calipers. Some brands of semi-metallic brakes are more likely to experience brake squeal due to the metallic ingredients in the brake pads.

Hawk Performance has a great reputation for manufacturing low-noise, high-performance brake pads. All Hawk Performance products have an OE quality shim, severe duty powder coat surface treatment and "GearHead Grease Paks" to virtually eliminate the risk of brake noise. Below are the instructions for proper use of our "GearHead Grease Paks."

1. To silence brake noise – Apply 1-2 grams on the backside of the brake pad and evenly spread across the surface making sure to cover any areas where the pad contacts the caliper or piston.
2. To lubricate calipers – Clean and inspect all brake caliper parts making sure to inspect for damage or excessive corrosion. Apply to pins, slides, bushings, pistons, rubber sleeves and seals.

DO NOT APPLY TO THE ROTOR FACE OR THE BRAKING SURFACE OF THE PAD!

Caution: For eye and skin contact, flush with water for 15 minutes. Wash skin with soap and water; call a physician if irritation persists. If swallowed do NOT induce vomiting; call a physician. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

Q: How do I break-in my new pads?

A: Brake Pad Burnishing/Bedding-In Instructions

1. After installing new brake pads, make 6 to 10 stops from approximately 30-35 MPH applying moderate pressure.
 2. Make an additional 2 to 3 hard stops from approximately 40-45 MPH.
 3. DO NOT DRAG BRAKES!
 4. Allow at least 15 minutes for the brake system to cool down.
 5. After step 4 is completed, your new Hawk Performance brake pads are ready for use.
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Q: Why should I follow a break-in procedure on new brake pads?

A: Correct brake pad break-in (bedding) is important to ensure quality braking performance over the life of the pad. This procedure allows the rubbing surface of the brake pad to be brought to temperature, creating a transfer-film layer of friction material to be applied to the rotor surface. This allows the brake pad material to rub against itself rather than the bare rotor. This increases the stopping performance of the brake pad and can reduce pad and rotor wear.



Q: Can I run cross-drilled or slotted rotors with Hawk Performance brake pads?

A: Yes you can. We do suggest a slotted or solid faced rotor for performance applications. Cross drilled rotors are primarily for looks, so some trade-offs - such as increased brake pad wear and increased dust - may occur.

Q: Where can I find an authorized distributor of Hawk Performance brake pads?

A: HawkPerformance.com You can find authorized dealers of Hawk Performance products by entering your zip code or the dealer's name in the box on the Dealer Locator page of our website. If you are looking for a distributor outside the U.S., simply use the International Dealer Locator page. You can also contact us at 800-542-0972.

Q: Does Hawk Performance have a part for my vehicle application?

A: We are constantly developing new applications, please search for it on our website. To search for a part for your vehicle application, choose the year, make and model on the "Part Search and Order Online" page of our website and hit "Search." All Hawk Performance part numbers for your specified application will be displayed, if available.

Q: What can I do during installation to ensure my brakes won't squeal?

A: First, choose Hawk Performance high performance disc brake pads as your upgrade over other aftermarket brake suppliers. The next best steps you can take to avoid having noisy brakes are:

- Turn / machine the rotors (machining off a small layer of the brake rotor to make it smooth again)
- Wash and dry the rotor to rid of debris
- Install the pads securely and according to instruction
- Properly bed-in the pads according to instruction
- Apply a thin layer of a silicone compound called anti-squeal brake lube on the back of the brake pads

Our standard installation procedures are outlined below. This information is printed on the box of every brake pad set we manufacture, and should be followed in accordance with the application-specific brake pad installation instructions provided by the vehicle manufacturer.

Brake Pad Installation Procedure

- Install brake pads properly. Be sure pads are securely positioned in the caliper.
- Flush brake system with fresh brake fluid.
- Check all hydraulic parts for excess wear and tear.
- Check disc for proper thickness, parallelism, and lateral runout.
- Check disc for scoring or grooves over .012"depth. If either applies, resurfacing is required.
- If discs do not need resurfacing, then contamination from the previous brake pads must be removed. Sand discs with 130-grit sandpaper using moderate pressure. Use soap and water to clean disc surface after sanding. Discs should be free and clear of oil, grease and brake fluid.
- Inspect calipers for freedom of movement. Lubricate where necessary.

Limited Lifetime Warranty

Hawk Performance will warranty products to be free of defects from workmanship and materials. This warranty does not apply to normal wear or damage caused by negligence, lack of maintenance, accident, abnormal operations, or improper installation or service. Hawk Performance does not make any other warranty claims, either expressed or implied, including the implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. In no event will Hawk Performance be liable for incident or consequential damages of any kind, whether such damages are claimed on account of breach of warranty, breach of contract, negligence, or strict product liability. This includes without limitation, damage to property, or other economic losses that may be incurred. Any, and all, warranty claims must be processed through Hawk Performance. All valid warranty claims will be replaced/reimbursed with Hawk Performance products of equal or greater value.

