

TECH FILES

Bulletin

WASH THOSE ROTORS BEFORE INSTALLATION!

December 2012

Applications:

All

Symptoms

- Poor Braking Performance

Causes:

- Metal shavings left on resurfaced rotors after machining
- Solvent residue left behind on the rotor surface

Solution:

- Wash rotors—this will remove metal shavings and any traces of solvent residue



Rotors that have been resurfaced will have metal shavings attached that must be removed in order for the new brake pads to work properly and quietly. Using dish soap (like Dawn) and warm water is the simplest, cheapest and most effective way to flush away the metal particles and remove any traces of solvent residue. Products like brake cleaning solvents tend to evaporate too quickly and will leave behind some of the critical contaminants.

New rotors typically do not have the same issue with metal particles left after machining, but they still need to be washed. Some new rotors are coated with a rust preventative material that is difficult to remove with soap and water. It is best removed with BrakeKleen or a similar product that will break down the coating and clean the surface. You then can wash the rotor with soap and warm water to remove any unwanted contaminants that remain.

DO wash new or resurfaced brake rotors **BEFORE** installing them.

DON'T assume solvent based products will remove all contamination that can interfere with braking performance.

NEVER install a newly resurfaced rotor straight from the lathe. Also, never allow brake pads to come in contact with a newly turned rotor, when an on-car lathe is used, until it is properly cleaned.

Benefits:

- **Clean rotors** – allow the new friction material to seat properly.
- **Friction is free of ferrous metal** – there will be no problems caused by metal particle contamination.

