

Brake Fluid

by Eric Blythe

Did you know that brake fluid is highly hydroscopic? (absorbs water). Once you have broken the seal on the container, brake fluid begins to absorb moisture from the air. Be careful with containers of brake fluid that have been opened. If the cap has not been secured tightly the fluid may have degraded. You should consider changing brake fluid at least every 18 months. Even at moderate braking, moisture in the fluid can give a "dead pedal" due to moisture vaporising action.

To change fluid, use a lint free rag to suck out all the old fluid from the master cylinder down to the holes at the bottom of the reservoirs then fill the reservoirs with clean new fluid, preferably from a canister you have just opened. To prevent bubbling try pouring the fluid onto the back of a spoon. It doesn't matter whether you use DOT 3, 4 or 5 fluid, the main criterion is the "freezing point" of the fluid.

You **must** then drain and bleed all wheel cylinders until the new clean fluid exits from the bleed nipples