



**MIKES
CORVETTE
CORNER**

June 1 2017

Breaking in Brake Pads

Over the years I've installed a number of brake pads, rotors, and associated brake components. Once the brake job was complete, the only thing left was to burnish or break them in. What I usually do is a few light pedal applications, to burn off any residue, and get a feel for the brake pedal. Shortly afterward I would go a little over the speed limit and do a few hard applications. All new brake pads and rotors should be put through a break in process called "bed - in" The bed - in procedure which should be performed prior to your first ride, ensures the most consistent and powerful braking feel along with the quietest braking in most driving conditions. The bed - in process heats up the brake pads and rotors, which deposits an even layer of brake pad material to the braking surface of the rotor. It is this transfer layer that optimizes braking performance.

The Process of Bedding in New Brakes

Once the new brakes or rotors are installed the next step is to bed - in the brakes. This is done by rapid acceleration and then quick deceleration.

It's important to remember safety when attempting to bed in the new brakes. To maintain the safety of anyone on the road, it is best if bedding in is done in an area with little to no traffic. Most people travel a little ways out of their city to bed in new brakes.

Bedding in the brakes is usually done in two rounds.

During the first round, the vehicle is driven at a speed of 45 mph, with a medium-to-easy slow to stop, repeated three or four times. The brakes should be allowed to cool for a few minutes, and then the car should be subjected to an aggressive slow-down from 60 mph to 15 mph eight to ten times. The vehicle should be allowed to sit, or driven at a low speed on the empty road, for a few minutes to allow the brakes to cool before using the brakes again.

After doing this, the brake pads should show a distinctive color change from when they were first applied. This change is the transfer layer. Once bedding in has been completed, the brakes should provide the driver with smooth braking.

Mike