

# STRETCH

YOUR DOLLAR



## Checking Your Brakes

It's common knowledge that pushing down on the brake pedal slows the car down to a stop. It is also common not to think about your vehicle's brakes until something goes wrong—such as being surprised at a traffic light or blindsided by an expensive repair.

Rather than being hit with unexpected and unpleasant surprises, understanding of your vehicle's brake system can save you more than money. Taking care of your brakes will also allow you to drive more safely.

Pushing down on the brake pedal slows your car down and ultimately brings it to a stop. However, your car does a lot more work than that! When you push down on the brake pedal, force is applied to a device called a master cylinder. The master cylinder contains a piston that pressurizes a network of hydraulic brake lines that lead to each of the vehicle's wheels. At each wheel, that brake fluid pressure drives pistons that force replaceable linings against a rotating drum or disc, creating friction. Friction is



what slows the wheel—and ultimately—the entire vehicle.

When the brake linings are nearly worn out, special metallic tabs create a squealing noise to alert the driver that the brake linings are due for replacement. That squealing should not be ignored! Worn brake linings have less fade-resistance than new linings. If the squealing is ignored long enough, costly damage to other brake components is highly likely.

If brake pads have worn down to the point where metal-to-metal contact occurs, your vehicle may not be able to stop safely, and you may get your car's rotors or drums to the point where they have to be replaced. A costly—and dangerous—situation!

Don't delay! Stop by the Discount Service Center's Service Department to ensure that your brakes are at full health.



**FREE**  
**Brake Inspection**

*We Also Offer Most Sizes & Brands of Tires*

**FREE**  
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