

# S A F E T Y BULLETIN

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## Checking and Testing for Faulty Brake Hoses

Brake professionals determine the safe working life of a brake hose by visual inspection and “feeling” the hose.

### The Correct Method to Test Brake Hoses



1. Have the engine running for maximum boost



2. Have someone pump the brake pedal while someone else inspects the hose

**NOTE:** If signs of deterioration are found on the external “skin” of the hose, this is an indication that the internal parts of the hose have also deteriorated.

The most effective way to look for faulty brake hoses is to check them when they are under extreme pressure.

#### WHY?

Imagine brake hoses as arteries in the human body. A person could live a normal life

with hard and restricted arteries, but it's when they exert their heart to some stress that symptoms arise.

The same applies to brake hoses. Brake hoses could appear “OK,” but when they are subjected to extreme

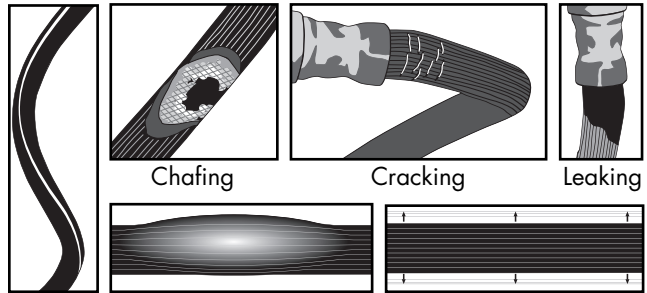
pressure in an emergency, they need to be in good condition to handle this sudden stress.

Most booster assisted braking systems can reach pressures of approximately 1500 psi.

### Visual Inspection of Hose and Installation

#### Things to look for:

1. Cracks in the outer skin of the hose  
(May need to bend hose for this test)
2. Blisters or bubbles in the hose
3. Chafe marks from the hose rubbing against something
4. Wet marks where the hose is starting to leak
5. Obvious bulging or expansion of the hose
6. Loose hose mounts or twisted hose\*



\* All brake hoses have two continuous lines of printing on the hose to make it easy for the installer to tell if the hose is twisted.

**If any of the above conditions are present, the hose is most likely past its safe working life & may need to be replaced.**

### Inspecting the Hose through “Feel”

#### What to feel for:

(Best way to get the “feel” is to feel a new hose first)

1. Hard and stiff hose
2. Hose expansion that should be barely noticeable
3. Soft and weak hoses



**This informative tip brought to you by your local brake hose manufacturer for OEM quality rubber & stainless steel braided hoses.**