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› Dorman W90549 Front Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder: Installation and Maintenance Guide

Dorman W90549



Dorman W90549 Front Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder

Installation and Maintenance Guide

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Dorman W90549 Front Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder is designed as a direct replacement component for specific Volkswagen models. This part ensures proper braking function by matching the fit, form, and performance of the original equipment. It is manufactured using quality materials and undergoes testing to ensure reliability and safety within the vehicle's drum brake system.



Image 1: Front view of the Dorman W90549 Front Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder, showing the main body, bleeder screw, and mounting points.

Key Features:

- **Direct Replacement:** Engineered to match the original drum brake wheel cylinder for specific vehicle applications.
- **Quality Construction:** Manufactured with high-quality EPDM rubber cups and boots for enhanced durability and performance.
- **Performance Tested:** Wheel cylinder bores are surface-tested to ensure optimal sealing for pressure cups, contributing to reliable brake performance.
- **Vehicle Compatibility:** Compatible with select Volkswagen models, ensuring precise fitment.

INSTALLATION (SETUP)

Installation of brake components requires specialized knowledge and tools. It is highly recommended that this procedure be performed by a qualified automotive technician. Improper installation can lead to brake system failure and serious injury.

Safety Precautions:

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses and gloves.
- Ensure the vehicle is securely supported on jack stands on a level surface.
- Disconnect the vehicle's battery before beginning work.
- Refer to the vehicle manufacturer's service manual for specific torque specifications and procedures.

General Installation Steps (Consult Service Manual for Details):

1. Safely lift and support the vehicle. Remove the wheel and tire assembly.
2. Remove the brake drum.
3. Carefully disconnect the brake line from the old wheel cylinder. Be prepared for brake fluid leakage.
4. Remove the mounting bolts securing the old wheel cylinder and remove it from the backing plate.
5. Clean the mounting surface on the backing plate.
6. Install the new Dorman W90549 wheel cylinder, ensuring proper alignment. Secure with mounting bolts to the manufacturer's specified torque.
7. Connect the brake line to the new wheel cylinder. Tighten securely, but do not overtighten.
8. Reassemble the brake drum and wheel assembly.
9. Bleed the brake system thoroughly to remove all air. This is a critical step for proper brake function.
10. Test the brakes in a safe area at low speed before returning the vehicle to normal operation.



Image 2: Side view of the Dorman W90549 Wheel Cylinder, illustrating the overall cylindrical shape and rubber boots protecting the pistons.

OPERATION

The Dorman W90549 Front Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder is an integral part of the vehicle's hydraulic drum brake system. When the brake pedal is pressed, hydraulic pressure from the master cylinder is transmitted through the brake lines to the wheel cylinder. Inside the wheel cylinder, this hydraulic pressure forces pistons outward, which in turn pushes the brake shoes against the inner surface of the brake drum. This friction slows or stops the wheel. The wheel cylinder's proper function is crucial for effective and balanced braking.

MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection and maintenance of the brake system are essential for vehicle safety and longevity. While the wheel cylinder itself is a sealed unit, its performance is dependent on the overall health of the drum brake system.

Inspection Guidelines:

- **Brake Fluid Level:** Regularly check the brake fluid level in the master cylinder reservoir. A low level can indicate a leak in the system, including the wheel cylinders.
- **Fluid Leaks:** During routine vehicle inspections, check the area around the brake drums for any signs of brake fluid leakage. Leaks from the wheel cylinder typically appear as wet spots on the backing plate or inside the drum.
- **Brake Performance:** Pay attention to any changes in brake pedal feel, such as a spongy pedal, excessive travel, or pulling to one side, which could indicate issues with the wheel cylinders or other brake components.
- **Rubber Boots:** Inspect the rubber boots on the wheel cylinder for cracks, tears, or deterioration. Damaged boots can allow contaminants to enter and damage the cylinder's internal components.

If any issues are detected, it is recommended to have the brake system inspected and serviced by a qualified technician immediately.



Image 3: Close-up view of the bleeder valve on the Dorman W90549 Wheel Cylinder, used for removing air from the hydraulic system during installation or maintenance.

TROUBLESHOOTING

This section outlines common symptoms that may indicate a problem with a drum brake wheel cylinder and potential causes. Always consult a professional technician for diagnosis and repair.

Symptom	Possible Cause (Wheel Cylinder Related)	Action
Brake fluid leak at the wheel	Damaged or worn wheel cylinder seals, cracked cylinder bore.	Inspect wheel cylinder for leaks; replace if necessary.
Spongy brake pedal	Air in the brake system due to a leak, or internal wheel cylinder issue.	Bleed brake system; inspect for leaks and replace components as needed.
Vehicle pulls to one side during braking	Uneven braking force due to a seized or malfunctioning wheel cylinder on one side.	Inspect both front wheel cylinders for proper operation; replace faulty unit.
Low brake fluid level	External leak from the wheel cylinder.	Locate and repair the source of the leak; refill and bleed brake fluid.

SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	Dorman
Model Number	W90549
Item Weight	14.9 ounces
Product Dimensions	4.1 x 3 x 2.5 inches
Manufacturer Part Number	W90549
OEM Part Numbers	072-8050; 072-8051; 072-8052; 134.33111; 135.33111; 2037109; 33682; 784-94111; 84-94111; 90549; F90549; W-20111; W906251; WC13682; WC37109; WC90549; 113 611 057; 131 611 057; 131 611 057A; 131611057A
Exterior Finish	Machined
Material	High-quality EPDM rubber cups and boots (internal components)

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Dorman products are designed and manufactured to high standards. For specific warranty information regarding the Dorman W90549 Front Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder, please refer to the packaging or contact Dorman customer support directly.

For further assistance, technical support, or to explore other Dorman products, please visit the official Dorman website or their Amazon Brand Store:

[Dorman Amazon Brand Store](#)

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