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› Dorman W46252 Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder User Manual

## Dorman W46252

# Dorman W46252 Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder User Manual

Model: W46252

## INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the Dorman W46252 Front Passenger Side Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder. This component is engineered as a direct replacement to match the fit, function, and performance of the original wheel cylinder in specific American Motors vehicles from 1964-1965. Adherence to these instructions will ensure proper function and longevity of the part.



Figure 1: Main view of the Dorman W46252 Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder. This image shows the primary structure of the wheel cylinder, including the main body and the fluid inlet port.

## PRODUCT FEATURES

- **Ideal Replacement:** Specifically engineered to be a direct match for the original drum brake wheel cylinder on particular vehicles.
- **Cost-Effective Fix:** Replacing the cylinder while servicing drum brakes is the fastest, surest way to ensure brake performance.
- **Quality Materials:** Manufactured with high-quality EPDM rubber cups and boots for long-lasting performance and durability.
- **Professionally Tested:** Wheel cylinder bores are surface-tested to ensure an optimum sealing surface for the pressure cups, promoting reliable braking.
- **Vehicle Compatibility:** Designed for specific American Motors models from 1964-1965. Always verify fitment using vehicle specifications.

## INSTALLATION AND SETUP

Installation of the drum brake wheel cylinder requires mechanical knowledge and appropriate tools. It is recommended that installation be performed by a qualified technician. Always refer to the vehicle's specific service manual for detailed brake system procedures.

### Required Tools and Materials:

- Wrench set
- Brake fluid (DOT 3 or DOT 4, as specified by vehicle manufacturer)
- Brake cleaner
- Bleeder kit
- Safety glasses and gloves

### Installation Steps:

1. **Safety First:** Ensure the vehicle is securely lifted and supported on jack stands. Disconnect the negative battery terminal.
2. **Remove Wheel and Drum:** Carefully remove the wheel and brake drum to expose the brake assembly.
3. **Disconnect Brake Line:** Place a drain pan beneath the wheel cylinder. Using an appropriate wrench, carefully disconnect the brake line from the old wheel cylinder. Be prepared for brake fluid leakage.
4. **Remove Old Cylinder:** Unbolt and remove the old wheel cylinder from the backing plate.
5. **Install New Cylinder:** Position the Dorman W46252 wheel cylinder onto the backing plate and secure it with the mounting bolts. Ensure proper alignment.
6. **Reconnect Brake Line:** Carefully reconnect the brake line to the new wheel cylinder. Tighten to manufacturer specifications to prevent leaks.
7. **Bleed Brake System:** This is a critical step. Bleed the brake system to remove any air introduced during the installation process. Follow the vehicle manufacturer's bleeding procedure.
8. **Reassemble:** Reinstall the brake drum and wheel. Lower the vehicle.
9. **Test Brakes:** Before driving, pump the brake pedal several times to build pressure. Test the brakes in a safe, controlled environment at low speed. Check for any fluid leaks.

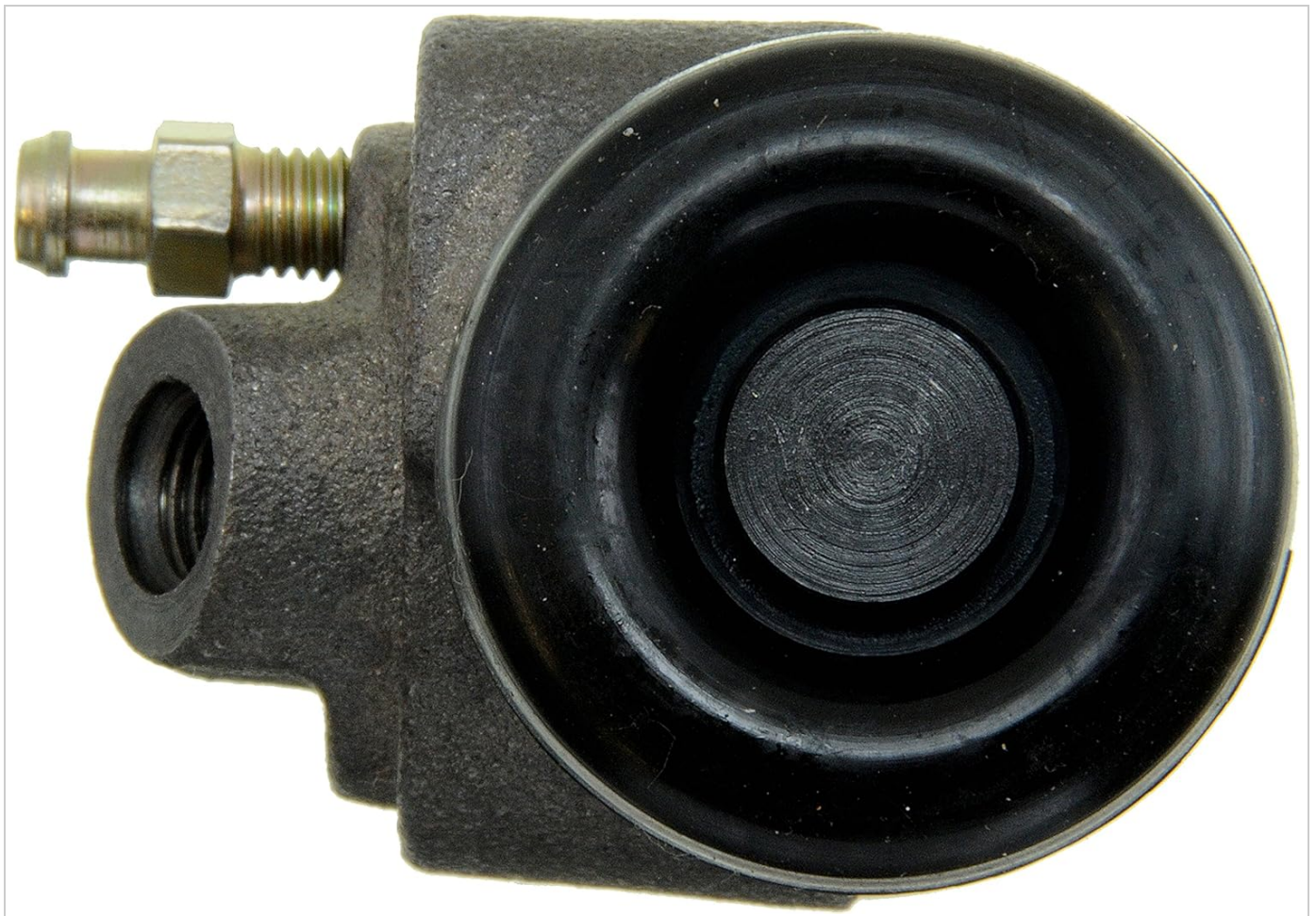


Figure 2: Side view of the Dorman W46252 Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder, showing the rubber boot and piston area. This view is important

for understanding the sealing components.

## OPERATION

The Dorman W46252 drum brake wheel cylinder functions as a hydraulic component within the vehicle's braking system. When the brake pedal is depressed, hydraulic pressure from the master cylinder is transmitted through the brake lines to the wheel cylinder. This pressure forces the wheel cylinder pistons outward, pushing the brake shoes against the inside of the brake drum, creating friction and slowing the vehicle.

Proper operation relies on a sealed system free of air and leaks. Any spongy feeling in the brake pedal or reduced braking performance may indicate an issue with the hydraulic system, including the wheel cylinders.

## MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection and maintenance of the brake system are crucial for safety and performance. While the wheel cylinder itself is a sealed unit, its surrounding components require attention.

### Maintenance Schedule:

- **Every 12,000 miles or 12 months:** Inspect brake fluid level and condition. Check for any signs of brake fluid leaks around the wheel cylinders and brake lines.
- **During brake service (e.g., shoe replacement):** Thoroughly inspect the wheel cylinder for leaks, corrosion, or damaged rubber boots. Replace the wheel cylinder if any issues are found.
- **Fluid Replacement:** Follow vehicle manufacturer recommendations for brake fluid flush and replacement intervals. Old brake fluid can absorb moisture, leading to corrosion and reduced braking efficiency.



Figure 3: Bottom view of the Dorman W46252 Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder. This angle highlights the overall compact design and mounting points.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

Common issues related to drum brake wheel cylinders and their potential causes:

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
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Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Brake fluid leak at wheel	Damaged wheel cylinder seals or cracked housing.	Replace wheel cylinder. Inspect brake shoes for fluid contamination.
Spongy brake pedal	Air in the brake lines, internal wheel cylinder leak, or master cylinder issue.	Bleed brake system thoroughly. If issue persists, inspect wheel cylinders and master cylinder.
Poor braking performance	Contaminated brake shoes (due to fluid leak), worn brake shoes, or faulty wheel cylinder.	Inspect and replace brake shoes if contaminated. Replace wheel cylinder if faulty.
Brake drag or pulling	Sticking wheel cylinder piston or seized brake shoe mechanism.	Inspect and replace wheel cylinder if piston is seized. Lubricate or replace brake shoe hardware.

If you encounter any of these issues, it is recommended to consult a professional automotive technician for diagnosis and repair.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Detail
Manufacturer	Dorman Products
Brand	Dorman
Model Number	W46252
Product Type	Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder
Item Weight	7.2 ounces
Product Dimensions	3.8 x 2.5 x 2.2 inches
OEM Part Numbers	134.63013; 135.63013; 18E47; 33436; 46252; 84-32013; F46252; W-83013; W906201; WC252960; WC37015; WC46252; 3166523; 3169665; 3196523; 3225190; 5473074; J8126712
Compatibility	Front Passenger Side, Select American Motors Models (1964, 1965)

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Dorman Products are manufactured to high-quality standards. For specific warranty information regarding the W46252 Drum Brake Wheel Cylinder, please refer to the official Dorman Products website or contact their customer support directly.

For technical assistance or further inquiries, you may visit the official Dorman Store or contact Dorman customer service.

**Official Dorman Store:** [Visit Dorman Store on Amazon](#)



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