



Piston Cushion FAQ

Q. Will Piston Cushions fit every disc brake caliper?

A. Piston Cushions will work on nearly all disc brake calipers that have hollow or cup-like pistons. There are 30 part numbers that cover inner diameters of 0.75" to 2.7". However, most vehicles that have rear calipers with an integrated park brake system will contain solid pistons, and therefore cannot accept Piston Cushions. This type of piston is estimated to be in less than 3% of all disc brake caliper applications, so more than 97% of all caliper applications should accept Piston Cushions.

Q. Could there be any clearance issues when assembling the disc brake system with the added thickness of a Piston Cushion?

A. Only on a rare occurrence would there be any clearance issue because the overall thickness of a Piston Cushion is only 0.025". This added thickness to the brake system will be negligible in nearly all applications. Fixed caliper applications have the tightest tolerances, since there are caliper pistons on opposing sides of the rotor. New rotors are sometimes slightly thicker than OE, so the distance between the pads in the caliper when the pistons are fully retracted should be checked to make sure there is no clearance issue.

Q. I lost my piston measuring tool. How do I determine the correct Piston Cushion for an application?

A. Although piston measuring tools can be ordered as part number PMT10 for a box of 10, there is another way to determine the correct size. Piston Cushion part numbers are related to the inner diameter of the pistons for which they are intended. For example, PS080 fits piston I.D. of around 0.8", PS090 fits I.D. of around 0.9", and so on. The easiest way to determine the correct Piston Cushion is to measure the I.D. of the piston and pick the Cushion that is closest in size to that measurement. For a piston with an I.D. of less than 1.75", there are two widths from which to choose, L and S. If the width of the piston wall is less than 0.3", the S width should be used. L widths are used with wall thicknesses of over 0.3", which is typically the case with phenolic pistons.

Q. Will Piston Cushions be included with pad sets?

A. A pad set could fit multiple vehicles, sometimes even crossing over to different vehicle manufacturers, each with possibly different calipers and caliper pistons. Because of this it would be impractical to include Piston Cushions with pad sets.

Q. Will Piston Cushion applications be listed by vehicle year, make, and model?

A. Over time, caliper manufacturers, rebuilders, and piston suppliers can change caliper piston features for any given caliper, therefore, it is not practical to list Piston Cushion applications by vehicle. Measuring the caliper pistons on each brake job is the easiest and most effective way to ensure correct application.