

Brake System

Symptom Chart(s)

Symptom Chart: Brake System

Diagnostics in this manual assume a certain skill level and knowledge of Ford-specific diagnostic practices.

REFER to: [Diagnostic Methods](#) (100-00 General Information, Description and Operation).

Condition	Possible Sources	Actions
The red brake warning indicator and the yellow ABS warning indicator are illuminated	Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTCs) in the ABS	CHECK for ABS diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs). REFER to: Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control (206-09 Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control) .
The red brake warning indicator is always/ never on	• Brake fluid level switch • Parking brake switch • Wiring, terminals or connectors • IPC • BCM	REFER to: Instrumentation, Message Center and Warning Chimes (413-01 Instrumentation, Message Center and Warning Chimes) .
Vehicle pulls or drifts during braking	• Brake calipers and/or guide pins • Brake flexible hose • Brake pads • Brake discs	INSPECT the brake system components. INSTALL new components as necessary.

	Tires	REFER to: Wheels and Tires (204-04 Wheels and Tires) .
	Suspension component(s) and/or wheel alignment	REFER to: Suspension System (204-00 Suspension System - General Information) .
Brake pedal goes down fast or eases down slowly	Brake fluid leaks and/or air in the system	INSPECT the system for visible signs of brake fluid leakage. REPAIR as necessary. BLEED the system. REFER to: Brake System Pressure Bleeding (206-00 Brake System - General Information, General Procedures). If no visible signs of leakage are found, INSPECT for brake master cylinder fluid leakage into the brake booster. If there is evidence of fluid in the brake booster, INSTALL a new brake master cylinder and brake booster. REFER to: Brake Master Cylinder (206-06 Hydraulic Brake Actuation, Removal and Installation). REFER to: Brake Booster (206-07 Power Brake Actuation) . Also, for vehicles equipped with an EcoBoost engine, INSPECT for evidence of brake fluid in the vacuum tube. If there is evidence of brake fluid in the vacuum tube, INSTALL a new vacuum tube and brake vacuum pump. REFER to: Brake Vacuum Pump - 2.7L EcoBoost (238kW/324PS) (206-07 Power Brake Actuation, Removal and Installation).

	Brake master cylinder	CARRY OUT the Brake Master Cylinder - Bypass Condition Component Test.
	HCU	REFER to: Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control (206-09 Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control) .
	Brake pedal	INSPECT the brake pedal and bracket assembly. INSTALL a new brake pedal and bracket as necessary. REFER to: Brake Pedal and Bracket (206-06 Hydraulic Brake Actuation, Removal and Installation).
Brakes lock up under light brake pedal force	• Brake pads • Brake flexible hose • Brake disc • Brake calipers and/or guide pins	INSPECT the brake system components. INSTALL new components as necessary.
	ABS	REFER to: Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control (206-09 Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control) .
Excessive brake pedal travel (low/spongy pedal)	Brake fluid leaks and/or air in the system	INSPECT the system for visible signs of brake fluid leakage. REPAIR as necessary. BLEED the system. REFER to: Brake System Pressure Bleeding (206-00 Brake System - General Information, General Procedures). If no visible signs of leakage are found, INSPECT for brake master cylinder fluid leakage into the brake booster. If there is

	evidence of fluid in the brake booster, INSTALL a new brake master cylinder and brake booster. REFER to: Brake Master Cylinder (206-06 Hydraulic Brake Actuation, Removal and Installation). REFER to: Brake Booster (206-07 Power Brake Actuation) . Also, for vehicles equipped with an EcoBoost engine, INSPECT for evidence of brake fluid in the vacuum tube. If there is evidence of brake fluid in the vacuum tube, INSTALL a new vacuum tube and brake vacuum pump. REFER to: Brake Vacuum Pump - 2.7L EcoBoost (238kW/324PS) (206-07 Power Brake Actuation, Removal and Installation).
Brake master cylinder	CARRY OUT the Brake Master Cylinder - Bypass Condition Component Test.
Brake calipers and/or guide pins	INSPECT the brake calipers and guide pins. INSTALL new components as necessary.
Brake flexible hose	INSPECT the brake flexible hoses during brake application. INSTALL a new brake hose as necessary. REFER to: Front Brake Flexible Hose (206-03 Front Disc Brake, Removal and Installation). REFER to: Rear Brake Inner Flexible Hose (206-04 Rear Disc Brake, Removal and Installation). REFER to: Rear Brake Outer Flexible Hose (206-04 Rear Disc Brake) .

Erratic brake pedal travel	Brake pedal	INSPECT the brake pedal for binding, obstructions and correct interface to booster rod. REPAIR as necessary. CHECK the brake pedal fasteners for correct torque. REFER to: Brake Pedal and Bracket (206-06 Hydraulic Brake Actuation, Removal and Installation).
	ABS	REFER to: Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control (206-09 Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control) .
Brake drag	Parking brake component	INSPECT the parking brake system. INSTALL new components as necessary.
	• Brake caliper and/or guide pins • Brake flexible hose • Brake booster	INSPECT the brake system components. INSTALL new components as necessary.
	Brake master cylinder	CARRY OUT the Brake Master Cylinder - Compensator Port Component Test.
	Hydraulic Control Unit (HCU)	REFER to: Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control (206-09 Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) and Stability Control) .
	Stoplamp switch	VERIFY correct installation of the stoplamp switch. REFER to: Stoplamp Switch (417-01 Exterior Lighting, Removal and Installation).

Excessive brake pedal effort	• Insufficient vacuum for brake booster operation • Brake booster manifold vacuum hose • Brake booster • Brake booster check valve • Brake booster vacuum pump	CARRY OUT the Brake Booster Component Test in this section.
	Brake pads	INSPECT the brake pads. INSTALL new components as necessary. REFER to: Brake Pads (206-03 Front Disc Brake, Removal and Installation). REFER to: Brake Pads - Vehicles Without: Electronic Parking Brake (EPB) (206-04 Rear Disc Brake, Removal and Installation). REFER to: Brake Pads - Vehicles With: Electronic Parking Brake (EPB) (206-04 Rear Disc Brake) .

Symptom Chart: NVH

Diagnostics in this manual assume a certain skill level and knowledge of Ford-specific diagnostic practices.

REFER to: [Diagnostic Methods](#) (100-00 General Information, Description and Operation).

Condition	Possible Sources	Actions
Vibration when the brakes are applied	• Brake disc(s)/ • Suspension components	GO to Pinpoint Test A

Brake vibration/shudder — occurs when the brake pedal is released	Brake drag	REFER to Symptom Chart: Brake System
Rattling noise	• Caliper guide pins or guide pin bolts • Missing or damaged anti-rattle clips or springs • Loose brake disc shield	• INSPECT the caliper guide pins and guide pin bolts. INSTALL new components as necessary. • INSPECT the brake pads for missing clips or broken springs. INSTALL new components as necessary. • TIGHTEN the brake disc shield bolts to specification. REFER to: Brake Disc Shield (206-03 Front Disc Brake, Removal and Installation). REFER to: Brake Disc Shield (206-04 Rear Disc Brake, Removal and Installation).
Squealing noise — occurs on first (morning) brake application	Brake pads	Acceptable condition. Caused by humidity and low brake pad temperature.
Squealing noise — a continuous squeal	Brake pads	INSPECT the brake pads. INSTALL new components as necessary. REFER to: Brake Pads (206-03 Front Disc Brake, Removal and Installation). REFER to: Brake Pads - Vehicles Without: Electronic Parking Brake (EPB) (206-04 Rear Disc Brake, Removal and Installation). REFER to: Brake Pads - Vehicles With: Electronic Parking Brake (EPB) (206-04 Rear Disc Brake) .
Squealing noise — an intermittent squeal	Brake pads	Acceptable condition. Caused by cold, heat, water, mud or snow.

Groaning noise — occurs at low speeds with brake lightly applied (creeping)	Brake pads	Acceptable condition.
Grinding/moaning noise — continuous	• Brake pads • Brake disc	INSPECT the brake pads, brake discs and attaching hardware for damage. VERIFY brake components are within specifications. INSTALL new components as necessary.

Pinpoint Tests

Diagnostics in this manual assume a certain skill level and knowledge of Ford-specific diagnostic practices.

REFER to: [Diagnostic Methods](#) (100-00 General Information, Description and Operation).

Vibration When Brakes Are Applied

Normal Operation and Fault Conditions

During moderate to heavy braking, noise from the HCU and pulsation in the brake pedal can be observed. Pedal pulsation coupled with noise during heavy braking or on loose gravel, bumps, wet or snowy surfaces is acceptable and indicates correct functioning of the ABS. Pedal pulsation or steering wheel nibble when the brakes are applied (frequency is proportioned to the vehicle speed) indicates a concern with a brake or suspension component.

PINPOINT TEST A : VIBRATION WHEN BRAKES ARE APPLIED

A1 ROAD TEST THE VEHICLE -LIGHT BRAKING

- Road test the vehicle. Warm the brakes by slowing the vehicle from 80 to 32 km/h (50 to 20 mph) using light brake force. At highway speeds of 89-97 km/h (55-60 mph), apply the brake using light pedal force.

Is there a vibration/shudder felt in the steering wheel, seat or brake pedal?

Yes	GO to A4
No	GO to A2

A2 ROAD TEST THE VEHICLE -MODERATE TO HEAVY BRAKING

- Road test the vehicle. At highway speeds of 89-97 km/h (55-60 mph), apply the brake using a moderate to heavy pedal force.

Is there a vibration/shudder?

Yes	GO to A3
No	The concern is not present at this time.

A3 CHECK ABS (ANTI-LOCK BRAKE SYSTEM) OPERATION

NOTE: During moderate to heavy braking, noise from the Hydraulic Control Unit (HCU) and pulsation in the brake pedal can be observed. Pedal pulsation coupled with noise during heavy braking or on loose gravel, bumps, wet or snowy surfaces is acceptable and indicates correct operation of the ABS. Pedal pulsation or steering wheel nibble with the frequency proportional to vehicle speed indicates a concern with a brake or suspension component.

- Road test the vehicle and apply the brakes on a dry, firm surface, then apply the brakes on a wet, snowy or loose surface (such as gravel).

Is the vibration/shudder only present on a wet, snowy or loose surface?

Yes	This is a normal operating condition of the ABS.
No	GO to A4

A4 CHECK THE FRONT SUSPENSION

- Check the front suspension.

Are all the suspension components in satisfactory condition?

Yes	GO to A5
No	REPAIR or INSTALL new components as necessary. TEST the system for normal operation.

A5 CHECK THE FRONT BRAKE DISCS

- Inspect the front brake discs. If brake disc thickness is sufficiently above the minimum disc thickness, machine the brake disc. If disc thickness is close to minimum disc thickness, install new brake discs as necessary.
REFER to: [Brake Disc Machining](#) (206-00 Brake System - General Information, General Procedures).
REFER to: [Brake Disc](#) (206-03 Front Disc Brake, Removal and Installation).
- Road test the vehicle.

Is the vibration/shudder present?

Yes	GO to A6
No	The concern has been repaired.

A6 CHECK THE REAR SUSPENSION

- Check the rear suspension.
 - Only service rear rotors if special issues are present. F150 rear brakes are not sensitive to rotor-induced vibration or shudder.

Are all the suspension components in satisfactory condition?

Yes	INSPECT the rear brake discs. If brake disc thickness is sufficiently above the minimum disc thickness, machine the brake disc. If disc thickness is close to minimum disc thickness, install new brake discs as necessary. REFER to: Brake Disc Machining (206-00 Brake System - General Information, General Procedures). REFER to: Brake Disc (206-04 Rear Disc Brake) .
No	REPAIR or INSTALL new components as necessary. TEST the system for normal operation.

Component Test- Brake Booster

1. Disconnect the vacuum tube from the brake booster and connect a suitable vacuum/pressure tester to the vacuum tube.
2. Apply the parking brake, start the engine and place the transmission in NEUTRAL.
 - Allow the engine to reach normal operating temperature.
3. Verify that vacuum is available at the vacuum tube with engine running at normal idle speed.
 - The vacuum gauge should read between 51-84 kPa (15-24 in-Hg).
 - If specified vacuum is available, stop the engine, connect the tube and continue with Step 6.
 - For vehicles not equipped with a vacuum pump, if specified vacuum is not available, stop the engine, connect the tube and continue with Step 4.
 - For vehicles equipped with a brake vacuum pump, if specified vacuum is not available continue with Step 5.
4. Disconnect the vacuum tube from the engine, connect the vacuum gauge to the vacuum port on the engine and verify the specified vacuum is available with the engine at idle speed and the transmission in NEUTRAL.
 - The vacuum gauge should read between 51-84 kPa (15-24 in-Hg).
 - If the specified vacuum is available, install a new vacuum tube assembly and check the system for normal operation.

- If the specified vacuum is not available, diagnose the engine vacuum condition.
REFER to: Engine (303-00 Engine System - General Information) .
5. Disconnect the vacuum tube from the vacuum pump and check for the specified vacuum at the vacuum pump with the engine at idle speed and the transmission in NEUTRAL.
 - The vacuum gauge should read between 51-84 kPa (15-24 in-Hg).
 - If the specified vacuum is available at the pump, install a new vacuum tube assembly and check the system for normal operation.
 - If the specified vacuum is not available at the vacuum pump, install a new vacuum pump.
REFER to: [Brake Vacuum Pump - 2.7L EcoBoost \(238kW/324PS\)](#) (206-07 Power Brake Actuation, Removal and Installation).
Check the system for normal operation.
 6. Apply the brake pedal several times to exhaust all vacuum from the system.
 7. Apply the brake pedal and hold it in the applied position. Start the engine and verify that the brake pedal moves downward after the engine starts.
 - If the brake pedal moves, the brake booster is operating correctly. Continue with Step 8.
 - If the brake pedal does not move, install a new brake booster.
REFER to: Brake Booster (206-07 Power Brake Actuation) .
 8. Operate the engine a minimum of 20 seconds at idle. Stop the engine and let the vehicle stand for 10 minutes, then apply the brake pedal. The brake pedal feel should be the same as that noted with the engine operating.
 - If the brake pedal feels hard (no power assist), install a new vacuum tube assembly.
 - If the brake pedal feels the same as noted with the engine operating, the vacuum tube assembly is functioning properly.

Component Test- Brake Master Cylinder - Bypass Condition

1. Inspect the master cylinder.
2. Disconnect the brake tubes from the master cylinder.
3. **NOTE:** *Make sure the outlet port plugs do not show signs of leakage.*

Plug the outlet ports of the master cylinder.

4. Lightly apply the brakes and hold for 10 seconds. Release the brakes and then reapply with heavy force. If brake pedal height cannot be maintained, the brake master cylinder has an internal leak and a new brake master cylinder must be installed.

- If brake pedal height is maintained, reinstall brake tubes and tighten to specification. REFER to: [Brake Master Cylinder](#) (206-06 Hydraulic Brake Actuation, Removal and Installation).
After installation, bleed the brake system. REFER to: [Brake System Pressure Bleeding](#) (206-00 Brake System - General Information, General Procedures).

Component Test- Brake Master Cylinder - Compensator Port

1. Inspect the master cylinder.
2. REFER to: [Jacking and Lifting - Overview](#) (100-02 Jacking and Lifting, Description and Operation).
3. Apply and release the brakes.
4. With the brakes released, attempt to rotate each wheel and check for any brake drag.
 - If an excessive amount of brake drag exists at multiple wheels, continue to Step 5.
 - If an excessive amount of brake drag exists at only one wheel, it indicates a possible seized brake caliper, brake wheel cylinder or parking brake component. Repair or install new components as necessary.
5. Check the brake stoplamp switch and the brake pedal free play to verify the brake pedal is not partially applied.
6. Loosen the brake master cylinder nuts and position the brake master cylinder away from the brake booster.
7. With the brakes released, attempt to rotate each wheel and check for any brake drag.
 - If the brake drag is no longer present, install a new brake booster.
REFER to: Brake Booster (206-07 Power Brake Actuation) .
 - If the brake drag is still present, install a new master cylinder.
REFER to: [Brake Master Cylinder](#) (206-06 Hydraulic Brake Actuation, Removal and Installation).