

Wheels: *Rex D. writes by e-mail: “I have a 2000 Saturn model LS2 that on occasion the brake pedal will go all the way to the floor when trying to stop. This doesn’t happen all the time and when I have my local mechanic look at it, he hasn’t been able to get this to happen. When this happens if you pump the brakes, they will start working again and work just fine. I had my mechanic put a new master cylinder on the car and it has acted up at least once since then. I don’t know what to do. The brakes work great 99% of the time but I am concerned about that 1%. Is this a problem with Saturn cars? Have you heard of this problem?”*

Halderman: Thanks for writing. While a master cylinder fault is the most likely for a sinking brake pedal concern, I think there is something else occurring here. This is not a common problem for a Saturn or any other vehicle but it can occur. I think what is happening is there is a faulty wheel bearing. If the brake rotor moves due to wear in a wheel bearing the caliper piston has to move further. When the caliper piston moves further, more brake fluid is needed and the brake pedal drops. I suggest that you ask a professional service technician to inspect all wheel bearings and calipers for proper operation. The problem could be due to just one wheel brake and either in the front or the rear so a thorough brake inspection will be needed.

