

Wheels: Clif asks by e-mail after reading in a previous Straight Talk column that brake fluid absorbs moisture from the air at the rate of 2% per year, “Isn’t the brake system a closed system and therefore how does the brake fluid come into contact with air?”

Halderman: Yes, the brake system is closed, but it is also vented so air can flow into and out of the top of the master cylinder. Moisture also gets into the brake fluid through the rubber hoses. In fact, moisture can penetrate through plastic and that is why it is best to purchase brake fluid from a metal, rather than a plastic container.

