

Wheels: How can a service technician know when the wheel cylinders should be replaced?

Halderman: That's a good question because most vehicle manufacturers do not state any recommended service or replacement intervals. The wheel cylinders should be inspected for brake fluid leakage whenever the brakes are inspected or replaced. According to most experts, if brake fluid is observed leaking from the dust boots, then the replacement of the wheel cylinder is "required" to restore the braking system to as-new condition. If brake fluid is observed on the dust boots, then the replacement of the wheel cylinders could be a "suggested" replacement item. The difference between "required" and "suggested" is that the term "required" indicates that the part has worn or failed and is no longer serviceable, whereas the term "suggested" means that the component is close to the end of its useful life.

