

Wheels: Bob of Dayton recently inspected his front brakes and noticed that the disc brake pads on the left side were worn unevenly whereas the pads on the right side are evenly worn. The brakes seem to operate correctly. Do you have an explanation?

Halderman: The caliper on the left is not operating correctly. The disc brake calipers on your vehicle are called floating calipers because they are intended to slide or “float” as the brakes are applied. This movement of the caliper causes equal force to be applied to both brake pads. If the caliper sticks or the caliper piston is stuck, the caliper cannot slide. Hydraulic pressure forces the caliper to slide and pushes the outbound brake pad against the rotor. When the brakes are released, the caliper simply returns to its normal position and releases the force on the outboard pad. If the caliper is stuck, the pad will be worn away because it remains in contact with the rotor. Replacing the caliper and/or cleaning and lubricating the slides should restore your brake to normal. Be sure to lubricate both front disc brake calipers to help maintain even braking power side-to-side and help increase disc brake pad life.

