

## Checking Your Brakes

Before checking:

1. Make sure your brakes aren't hot from being operated recently.
2. It is easier to check if you have alloys.
3. Your car might have 4 disc brakes or disc brakes on the front and drum brakes on the back. We will look at both.

This is an example of a drum brake. They are usually found behind the rear wheels of smaller cars. Some old cars have drum brakes on all corners of the car.

It is found behind the alloy wheel in this picture and is the rusty part. To inspect these, they need to be taken apart.



This is an example of a disc brake. They are found on all corners of the car or just on the front wheels.

There is a metal disc behind the alloy which is squashed by disc pads when the brake pedal is operated which slows the car down.

Brake pads wear out and worn out brake pads can damage discs if left too long. If you check your pads regularly you can replace them before they begin to damage the disc which saves you money. The brake disc does eventually wear out.

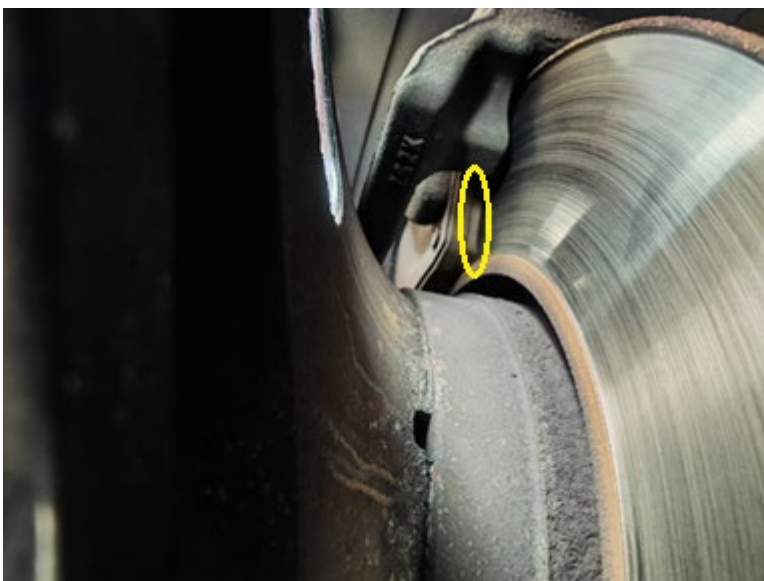
You can check the condition of a disc by running your finger across it (up and down). If it isn't smooth and has deep grooves, it may need to be replaced.



Running finger up and down the disc to see if it is in a good condition. This one is almost perfectly smooth.

Here is a close up of the disc behind the alloy wheel. As you can see it has small lines but feels nice and smooth still. There isn't a large lip at the outer edge of the disc either, so the disc is nice and thick still.

From this photo you can also see how much pad is left on the brake pad. This is the part of the brake pad which makes contact with the brake disc.



This section circled in yellow is the pad thickness. 3mm thick and it needs to be replaced. They are the cheapest part of the braking system to replace.

You can stick your phone camera through gaps in most alloys to get a photo of your pad thickness.

This pad has more than 3 mm so does not need replacing yet.

Wheels get dusty from brake dust.

Any grinding, scraping or noisy brakes need a competent person's immediate attention.

If you don't use your car for a while, discs can get rusty. Sometimes just using the car again and gradually applying the brakes and clean this off.