



Car Shaking or Vibrating — What It Usually Is

How real visits for vibration ended at independent shops across the US — the part actually replaced, how often, and what it cost when it was the only fix.

Brake pads or brake rotors

Nearly half of all these visits end in one of these two

Brake pads **\$223 – \$554**

Brake rotors **\$194 – \$447**

typical cost when it was the only fix
(parts + labor)

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Brake pads	28.8%	\$223 – \$554	\$355
Brake rotors	22.8%	\$194 – \$447	\$303
CV axle / driveshaft	18.8%	\$211 – \$612	\$355
Wheel bearing / hub	8.2%	\$321 – \$623	\$445
Tie rod	7.9%	\$222 – \$504	\$329
Brake caliper	6.7%	\$125 – \$359	\$221
Spark plugs	6.7%	\$170 – \$474	\$296
Ball joint	5.3%	\$288 – \$713	\$454
Control arm	4.8%	\$387 – \$926	\$599
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — tire balance, bent wheels, worn tie rods, driveshaft joints	varies	—

*Share of visits whose repair involved this part; combined repairs count toward each part, so shares overlap and don't add to 100%.

†Middle half of real invoices when this was the only fix — parts + labor, all vehicle types.

WHICH ONE IS YOURS? LISTEN FIRST

- **Shakes at highway speed** — Steering-wheel buzz starting around 60–70 mph is wheel balance first, tire wear or a bent wheel second.
- **Shakes when braking** — Vibration only under braking is warped rotors — the pads-and-rotors work that leads all brake outcomes fixes this too.
- **Shakes at idle** — A shudder at stoplights isn't wheels at all: engine misfire or collapsed engine mounts.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

Expect a road test and a look at the tires first — balance and tire condition cause most highway shakes and cost little. Shakes on braking point at rotors; shakes on acceleration at driveline joints. If the quote goes straight to suspension parts without a balance check, ask why.

ABOUT THIS DATA · HOW TO USE THIS BRIEF

Vehicles **all makes and models, US fleet**

Data confidence **High** — *large sample, stable shares*

Records through **July 2026**, refreshed continuously

Source **paid invoices from independent US repair shops**

Take it to the shop. It tells you what the likely answers are and what each one should cost — so when the diagnosis comes back, you already know whether the number fits. Vehicle-specific price reports for the common fixes are on fixdozer.com.

NOT A DIAGNOSIS This brief describes how other owners' visits for vibration ended. Your vehicle, its history and the shop's testing decide yours. FixDozer does not perform repairs and receives nothing from shops.