



Diagnosis Brief
what this complaint usually turns out to be

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Data as of July 2026

fixdozer.com/symptoms/brake-fluid-leak/

Brake Fluid Leaking — What It Is, and What It Costs

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

Brake fluid or brake line

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

Brake fluid **\$106 – \$366**

Brake line **\$130 – \$339**

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

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Brake fluid	60.4%	\$106 – \$366	\$203
Brake line	59.3%	\$130 – \$339	\$207
Brake caliper	12.4%	\$125 – \$359	\$221
Brake hose	12.3%	\$124 – \$317	\$200
Wheel cylinder	10.3%	\$135 – \$323	\$209
Gasket / seal	3.5%	\$65 – \$444	\$188
Pipe / tube	2.1%	\$26 – \$196	\$65
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — master cylinders, ABS units, banjo fittings	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

- **Rusted brake lines** — In salt states the steel lines are the headline outcome: they corrode along the frame until one weeps or lets go under hard braking.
- **Leaks at the wheel** — A wet spot inside a wheel points at a caliper seal or, on drum brakes, a wheel cylinder.
- **The warning light** — The red brake warning light doubles as a low-fluid light on most vehicles.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

Repair-now. Expect every wheel and line inspected; rusted steel lines lead, then hoses, calipers and wheel cylinders. A shop finding one bad line should inspect the rest — they're the same age. Fresh fluid and a full bleed come with any fix.

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 a brake fluid leak ended. Your vehicle, its history and the shop's testing decide yours. FixDozer does not perform repairs and receives nothing from shops.

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