



Brake Light Not Working — What It Is, and What It Costs

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

Bulb

The single most common outcome — nearly half of these visits when combined with the runner-up

Bulb **\$38 – \$146**

Switch **\$126 – \$344**

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

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Bulb	74.6%	\$38 – \$146	\$73
Switch	13.7%	\$126 – \$344	\$216
Light assembly	6.9%	\$58 – \$262	\$130
Fuse	4.9%	\$56 – \$239	\$115
Cables / wiring	2.0%	\$121 – \$392	\$225
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — brake-light switches, sockets, wiring to the trailer connector	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

- **One brake light out** — A single dead brake light is a bulb or a corroded socket — the dominant outcome here.
- **All brake lights out** — When no brake lights work — often discovered by an annoyed driver behind you — the brake-light switch at the pedal is the classic answer.
- **The center light** — The high-mount center light often fails separately, and on many vehicles it's an LED strip serviced as an assembly — the pricier corner of an otherwise cheap repair family.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

One out is a bulb or socket; all out is the brake-light switch at the pedal, a quick job. Expect the shop to check the fuse and switch before anything else. A center high-mount light may be an LED strip serviced as a unit — the pricier corner of a cheap family.

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