



Soft Brake Pedal or ABS Light — What It Usually Is

How real visits for a brake pedal or ABS-light problem 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	35.8%	\$223 – \$554	\$355
Brake rotors	27.1%	\$194 – \$447	\$303
Brake fluid	22.1%	\$106 – \$366	\$203
Sensor	12.3%	\$180 – \$433	\$287
Wheel bearing / hub	9.9%	\$321 – \$623	\$445
Brake line	9.6%	\$130 – \$339	\$207
Brake caliper	9.3%	\$125 – \$359	\$221
Brake hose	5.0%	\$124 – \$317	\$200
Master cylinder	4.5%	\$163 – \$426	\$273
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — wheel-speed sensors, proportioning valves, fluid leaks at the wheel	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

- **ABS light on** — Most ABS lights are a wheel-speed sensor or its wiring — the sensors live in the wheel's grit and rust zone.
- **Soft or sinking pedal** — A pedal that travels farther than it used to, or sinks under steady pressure, is hydraulic: air in the lines, a leak, or a failing master cylinder.
- **Vibration when braking** — A steering-wheel shimmy only while braking is warped front rotors in most cases — resolved by the rotor-and-pad work that dominates brake outcomes.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

A soft or sinking pedal is hydraulic and urgent — expect a pressure test and a look for leaks at every wheel before anything is replaced; a dry system with a sinking pedal points at the master cylinder. An ABS light is a code first: wheel-speed sensors are the usual answer, the ABS module the expensive one. Fresh fluid and a full bleed belong on every hydraulic repair invoice.

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