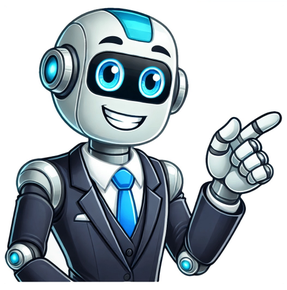
I'm not a robot



The brake light is mainly shown by a circle with an exclamation point, while in some manufacturers, you would see it blatantly spelling out the word “BRAKE”.Back in the day, cars had only a single brake light. It would notify the driver of any problems related to the brake system.Over time, the braking system was equipped with advanced techniques for informing drivers of particular issues. This is reflected in the multiple brake warning lights on the dashboard display. Each of them indicates a problem with a specific part of the system, as shown below:The parking brake, also known as the emergency brake or hand brake, is used for securing your vehicle when parked or stopped. When applied, the “P” symbol illuminates on the dash. However, this light soon goes off once the parking brake is released.But, the parking brake light may sometimes remain on despite releasing the hand brake. This can occur either due to the partial release of the lever or some fault within the system.The low brake fluid level light illuminates when your brake fluid level drops below the threshold. You should check the brake fluid level in the master cylinder and top it off.The worn brake pad light illuminates when the brake pads get too worn and need replacement as soon as possible. In older models that don’t have this indicator, the low brake fluid level light may serve as a reminder that it’s time to replace the brake pads.No. Once the light illuminates, it indicates an issue with your vehicle’s braking system. Ignoring this warning could decrease braking performance, which could be dangerous and increase the crash risk.Therefore, always find a safe place to pull over and follow my guide below. You can also call your breakdown service for assistance.The brake light on your dashboard is a sign that your car’s brake system is going through a tough time. From benign to critical, it can illuminate because of several reasons. The most common ones include the following:Most vehicles are equipped with a sensor to detect engaged parking brakes. If the brake is activated even in the slightest, the sensor turns the brake light on to notify you that it is unsafe to drive like this.Simply releasing the brake all the way through is enough to fix this minor issue.Brake fluid is the pressurized liquid within the brake lines that applies pressure on the brake pads and causes the car to slow down.Most modern-day vehicles have a sensor that monitors the level of the brake fluid. In case the level drops below the threshold, the system will trigger the brake light to inform you.The fix is easy: Fill the tank up, and the light will go off.However, refilling the brake fluid is just a temporary solution. Unlike the engine oil, the brake fluid does not burn up within the system. Based on my experience working at the garage, the reason behind it is the leaking in the brake lines. Thus, take your car to an expert to fix fluid leaks. If not taken care of immediately, it can lead to brake failure.Brake pads can wear and thin out over time. This causes the piston in the brake caliper to move outwards, leaving behind a vacant space. Eventually, the reservoir’s fluid sweeps into this space, lowering the brake fluid level and causing the indicator light to switch on.Getting your brake pads replaced is the only way to fix this problem. You can either do this yourself or take help from a professional.Most vehicles are equipped with the Anti-lock Brake System (ABS). Its function is to restore traction in the wheels and prevent the car from spinning out of control, particularly on slippery or wet surfaces.ABS malfunction can trigger both the ABS light and the brake light. Common causes of ABS malfunction include low fluid levels and dirty speed sensors.Use a scan tool to determine the actual cause of the ABS malfunction and make the necessary adjustments (I have explained this step below). When fixing the ABS, the brake light then goes off.Numerous sensors are found in your brake system.Brake fluid level sensors – detect the amount of brake fluid in the reservoir.Brake pad wear sensors – monitor the current wear of the brake pad.Unfortunately, these sensors become dirty or faulty with time. They might send the wrong signals to the system and trigger the brake light to illuminate.Clean the sensor with a soft cloth. If it still doesn’t work, you might have an issue with one of its electrical components. In this case, book an appointment with a certified technician to fix the problem.6. Faulty Rear Brake Light BulbSometimes the bulbs in the brake lights become faulty and cause the warning light to pop up. This fault can occur for many reasons, including burned-out bulbs, blown fuses, or a failing brake light switch.Replace the brake light with a new bulb of the same type and check if the brake light stops illuminating. If it does, all is good, and you can continue driving.However, if the light doesn’t stop flashing, the fault may lie within the electrical system. In this case, I advise you to schedule an appointment with a certified mechanic to inspect and repair the bulbs.Suppose you are almost halfway through your destination, but suddenly the brake light comes on. What are you supposed to do now?First, try not to panic and instead pull over and follow these steps while keeping your head on your shoulders.Even the slightest parking brake engagement can sometimes trigger the brake light to switch on. Thus, start pressing the release system to ensure the parking brake is fully disengaged before trying to restart the car.If the problem persists, move on to the next step.The brake light usually comes on due to low fluid levels. Hence, before contacting a mechanic, check its level and refill it until it reaches between the maximum and minimum marks.Try restarting the vehicle after this; if the light disappears, you are good to go!If the brake light stays on despite the parking brake disengagement and high fluid level, there might be another problem with your braking system. You can identify the cause of the problem by using an OBD2 scanner to read the codes stored in the car computer system. This pocket-sized device saves you time and money on car diagnosis and repair services.In case you don’t know how to use the OBD2 scanner, check the 7-step guide.To determine what the codes mean, search the DTC Look-up Library on the scanner or go to OBD2 Codes Lookup Tool. You will find the meaning, symptoms, causes, and how to fix the codes you have.Let a professional repair or replace the brake parts if you are unsure how to do it.Select the “Erase” function on the scanner.After clearing the trouble codes, restart your car and drive for about 50-100 miles. Eventually, the SRS light is gone, and you solve the problem!An illuminating brake light can occur because of several reasons. Most of the time, the cause is easy to identify and solve. However, other times the problem may be hard to discern and requires a scan tool to pinpoint the cause.Is the guide easy to follow?If you have trouble fixing the brake light, comment below. I will try to support you.Learn more:Stay Alert: Understanding Forward Emergency Braking Warning LightService StabiliTrak: What You Need to Know Is there a warning light appearing on your Honda dashboard? Learn the warning light’s meaning and the possible solutions to fix the problem by checking the list below. Honda Dashboard Warning Lights and Symbols Anti-lock brake System Fault Indicator This light means that the anti-lock brake system has been disabled. The problem is mostly due to a bad ABS wheel speed sensor. While the vehicle can be driven, the anti-lock brake function is disabled, and the vehicle may take longer to bring to a complete stop and may skid under hard braking or if there is rain or snow on the road. To find out why your Honda ABS light is on, use an ABS scanner to read the fault codes from the ABS Control Module. Generic OBD-II scanners may not be able to read airbag scanners. Service Engine Soon Indicator The check engine light or service engine soon light comes on when the onboard diagnostic system detects a problem with either the engine, emission system, or transmission. Common problems that cause the check engine light to stay on include: loose gas cap, bad oxygen sensor, dirty Mass Air Flow (MAF) sensor, A fault code gets stored in the Engine Control Unit (ECU) and can be retrieved with an OBD-II scanner to determine what is wrong with the vehicle. Air Bag Warning Light The airbag light turns on when you first turn on the ignition, but after a quick system check, it turns off if all the airbag components function properly. If the airbag light stays, it means the airbags have been disabled and may not deploy in case of an accident. To troubleshoot the airbag light on a , you will need to read the fault codes with an airbag scanner. Engine Temperature Indicator This is the warning symbol indicating that the engine has overheated. Pull over immediately and shut off the engine. Wait at least 30 minutes or more for the engine to cool down fully. Once the engine cools down, check the engine coolant level. Common problems that cause a Honda engine to overheat include low coolant level, bad water pump, broken coolant hoses, a faulty thermostat, damaged heater core, etc. If the engine overheating continues, do not drive. Call an auto mechanic for advice or tow the vehicle to an auto repair shop near you. Tire Pressure Monitor Indicator This light means there is low tire pressure in one of the tires. Check the tire pressure and correct it to bring it to the recommended air pressure, as shown on the sticker on the driver’s door frame. If the TPMS light stays on after you add air, there may be a problem communicating with one of the TPMS sensors, or the TPMS system is faulty. Charge System Trouble Indicator The battery warns the driver there is a problem with the charging system. If the battery light comes on, the vehicle may shut off when driving. The battery warning light can be caused by a faulty alternator, a serpentine belt problem, a defective voltage regulator, and even a bad battery. Low Washer Fluid Indicator This light means that the fuel level is low. Add windshield washer fluid to the reservoir in the engine bay. The windshield washer fluid reservoir has the same symbol on top. Low Fuel Indicator This light means that the fuel level is low, and you need to add more fuel. Oil Warning Light This light means there is alow oil pressure. Pull over immediately and shut off the engine. Wait at least 5 minutes, then check the oil level with the engine off. If the oil level is low, add engine oil to bring the level between the MIN and MAX marks of the dipstick. Do not drive the vehicle or keep it running on idle if the oil light stays on. Doing so can lead to serious engine problems. Call an auto mechanic for advice or tow the vehicle to a repair shop nearby. Brake Light This light indicates a problem with the brake system. It could be due to a low brake fluid level or another issue with the brake system. Do not drive with the BRAKE light on. Brakes may not work or function properly. Call an auto mechanic for advice and, if needed, tow the vehicle to the closest auto repair shop. Economy Mode Operation Indicator In economy mode, the vehicle will adjust engine and transmission performance for the best fuel economy. For example, engine RPMs don’t reach high values, and transmission may shift earlier. These adjustments help keep fuel consumption down. High Beam Indicator This light means the high beams are turned on. You should only use this setting if you are the only vehicle on the road. Do not keep the high beams on if you are coming in the opposite direction or other vehicles in front of your vehicle. To turn off the high beam, pull the turn switch towards the back of the vehicle. Lane Keeping Indicator This light means that lane assist is enabled. This light should flash if you leave the lane without turning on the blinker. Stability Control Indicator This light means that the stability control has been disabled. The vehicle can be driven but keep in mind stability control is off. In most cases, this light comes on at the same time that the ABS light comes on. If that is the case, there is a high chance one of the wheel speed sensors is faulty. Use an ABS Scanner to read the fault codes from the ABS and traction modules. Electronic Power Steering Trouble This light means there is a problem with the electronic power steering. The steering wheel may be tough to turn. Turn Signal Indicator This light means the turn signals are on. If both turn signals are flashing, it is because the hazard lights are turned on. Turn off the hazard by pressing the orange triangle on the dashboard. Door Ajar This light means that one of the doors is open or is not closed completely. Pull over, park the vehicle and check to ensure all the doors are fully closed. Park Lamps ON Indicator This light means the parking lights have been turned on. Typically the low beam switch controls the parking lights. Turn the switch one more click to turn on the low beams. Seat Belt Reminder This light means that one or more passenger in the vehicle has not fastened the seat belt. Stability Control OFF Indicator This light means that stability control has been turned off. Stability control may have been turned off because you pressed the button on the dashboard, or there is a problem with the system. Security Indicator This light means Hybrid Ready Indicator This light means Fog Lamp Indicator This light means Keyless Start Fault Indicator This light means Blind Spot Warning Indicator This light means All Wheel Drive Trouble Indicator This light means Collision Mitigation Fault Indicator This light means Integrated Motor Assist Fault Indicator This light means Adaptive Cruise Control This light means that adaptive cruise control has been activated. Power System Fault Indicator This light means Message Indicator This light means Cruise Control Indicator This light means that cruise control has been enabled. The vehicle will keep a constant speed. Cruise control will turn off if you press the brakes. Note that in this case, there is no adaptive cruise control. The vehicle will not keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front. Sport Mode Indicator This light means Auto Stop Indicator This light means EV ON Indicator This light means Hybrid Operation Indicator Efficient Shift Indicator Bed Lights ON Indicator The purpose of many of these lights on a Honda is to inform the driver when a system is enabled. A few of these lights indicate a problem or malfunction and inform the driver that that particular system has been disabled. ★★★★★ 4.8/5 (130+ Verified Reviews) ✓ Complete Access to All Vehicle Systems ✓ Free Lifetime Updates – No Hidden Fees ✓ Live Data + Advanced Bi-Directional Controls Why DIYers Trust YOUCANIC: ✓ US-Based Technical Support ✓ Detailed Diagnostic Guides ✓ 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee Read User Review & Check Price → Free Express Shipping • Trusted by 3,500+ DIYers & Mechanics To find out what is wrong with these systems, use an All System Honda Scanner to read the fault codes from the corresponding module. Note that most OBD-II scanners can only reach check engine codes and cannot diagnose other systems such as airbags, ABS, traction control, etc. We hope you find the Honda Dashboard Warning Lights and Symbols guide helpful. Check these troubleshooting and repair guides for more help on your Honda. The brake light is mainly shown by a circle with an exclamation point, while in some manufacturers, you would see it blatantly spelling out the word “BRAKE”.Back in the day, cars had only a single brake light. It would notify the driver of any problems related to the brake system.Over time, the braking system was equipped with advanced techniques for informing drivers of particular issues. This is reflected in the multiple brake warning lights on the dashboard display. Each of them indicates a problem with a specific part of the system, as shown below:The parking brake, also known as the emergency brake or hand brake, is used for securing your vehicle when parked or stopped. When applied, the “P” symbol illuminates on the dash. However, this light soon goes off once the parking brake is released.But, the parking brake light may sometimes remain on despite releasing the hand brake. This can occur either due to the partial release of the lever or some fault within the system.The low brake fluid level light illuminates when your brake fluid level drops below the threshold. You should check the brake fluid level in the master cylinder and top it off.The worn brake pad light illuminates when the brake pads get too worn and need replacement as soon as possible. In older models that don’t have this indicator, the low brake fluid level light may serve as a reminder that it’s time to replace the brake pads.No. Once the light illuminates, it indicates an issue with your vehicle’s braking system. Ignoring this warning could decrease braking performance, which could be dangerous and increase the crash risk.Therefore, always find a safe place to pull over and follow my guide below. You can also call your breakdown service for assistance.The brake light on your dashboard is a sign that your car’s brake system is going through a tough time. From benign to critical, it can illuminate because of several reasons. The most common ones include the following:Most vehicles are equipped with a sensor to detect engaged parking brakes. If the brake is activated even in the slightest, the sensor turns the brake light on to notify you that it is unsafe to drive like this.Simply releasing the brake all the way through is enough to fix this minor issue.Brake fluid is the pressurized liquid within the brake lines that applies pressure on the brake pads and causes the car to slow down.Most modern-day vehicles have a sensor that monitors the level of the brake fluid. In case the level drops below the threshold, the system will trigger the brake light to inform you.The fix is easy: Fill the tank up, and the light will go off.However, refilling the brake fluid is just a temporary solution. Unlike the engine oil, the brake fluid does not burn up within the system. Based on my experience working at the garage, the reason behind it is the leaking in the brake lines. Thus, take your car to an expert to fix fluid leaks. If not taken care of immediately, it can lead to brake failure.Brake pads can wear and thin out over time. This causes the piston in the brake caliper to move outwards, leaving behind a vacant space. Eventually, the reservoir’s fluid sweeps into this space, lowering the brake fluid level and causing the indicator light to switch on.Getting your brake pads replaced is the only way to fix this problem. You can either do this yourself or take help from a professional.Most vehicles are equipped with the Anti-lock Brake System (ABS). Its function is to restore traction in the wheels and prevent the car from spinning out of control, particularly on slippery or wet surfaces.ABS malfunction can trigger both the ABS light and the brake light. Common causes of ABS malfunction include low fluid levels and dirty speed sensors.Use a scan tool to determine the actual cause of the ABS malfunction and make the necessary adjustments (I have explained this step below). When fixing the ABS, the brake light then goes off.Numerous sensors are found in your brake system.Brake fluid level sensors – detect the amount of brake fluid in the reservoir.Brake pad wear sensors – monitor the current wear of the brake pad.Unfortunately, these sensors become dirty or faulty with time. They might send the wrong signals to the system and trigger the brake light to illuminate.Clean the sensor with a soft cloth. If it still doesn’t work, you might have an issue with one of its electrical components. In this case, book an appointment with a certified technician to fix the problem.6. Faulty Rear Brake Light BulbSometimes the bulbs in the brake lights become faulty and cause the warning light to pop up. This fault can occur for many reasons, including burned-out bulbs, blown fuses, or a failing brake light switch.Replace the brake light with a new bulb of the same type and check if the brake light stops illuminating. If it does, all is good, and you can continue driving.However, if the light doesn’t stop flashing, the fault may lie within the electrical system. In this case, I advise you to schedule an appointment with a certified mechanic to inspect and repair the bulbs.Suppose you are almost halfway through your destination, but suddenly the brake light comes on. What are you supposed to do now?First, try not to panic and instead pull over and follow these steps while keeping your head on your shoulders.Even the slightest parking brake engagement can sometimes trigger the brake light to switch on. Thus, start pressing the release system to ensure the parking brake is fully disengaged before trying to restart the car.If the problem persists, move on to the next step.The brake light usually comes on due to low fluid levels. Hence, before contacting a mechanic, check its level and refill it until it reaches between the maximum and minimum marks.Try restarting the vehicle after this; if the light disappears, you are good to go!If the brake light stays on despite the parking brake disengagement and high fluid level, there might be another problem with your braking system. You can identify the cause of the problem by using an OBD2 scanner to read the codes stored in the car computer system. This pocket-sized device saves you time and money on car diagnosis and repair services.In case you don’t know how to use the OBD2 scanner, check the 7-step guide.To determine what the codes mean, search the DTC Look-up Library on the scanner or go to OBD2 Codes Lookup Tool. You will find the meaning, symptoms, causes, and how to fix the codes you have.Let a professional repair or replace the brake parts if you are unsure how to do it.Select the “Erase” function on the scanner.After clearing the trouble codes, restart your car and drive for about 50-100 miles. Eventually, the SRS light is gone, and you solve the problem!An illuminating brake light can occur because of several reasons. Most of the time, the cause is easy to identify and solve. However, other times the problem may be hard to discern and requires a scan tool to pinpoint the cause.Is the guide easy to follow?If you have trouble fixing the brake light, comment below. I will try to support you.Learn more:Stay Alert: Understanding Forward Emergency Braking Warning LightService StabiliTrak: What You Need to Know If your car’s dash has the brake light on, there could be a few reasons why. When the brake light is on, it means there may be a problem with the brakes, like low brake fluid, broken brake system parts, leaking brake fluid, or a parking brake left on. If the brake light turns on, you do not want to drive the car in case the brakes stop working. The tips in this article and video can help you inspect the system yourself and possibly fix it without having to bring it to a professional. How to diagnose a flashing brake light on the dash Stop Driving If the brake light is on, you want to stop driving and have the vehicle towed to a safe location or a professional to inspect the brakes, since driving with bad brakes is unsafe for you and other drivers. The brake light may turn on and stay on, it may flash, or it may flash and then turn off.If the brakes work fine the brake fluid may just be low, which means you can just top it off with the right brake fluid. Air in the brake system can cause the brake pedal to feel spongy or soft, or it may not fully pause once the vehicle is at a stop, and this is a sign that parts in the brake system may be leaking. Check the Brake Master Cylinder Some brake master cylinders have a sensor that measures and records the brake fluid level. When the brake fluid level drops too low, this sensor will trigger the brake light. If the brake fluid level is low, top off the brake fluid with the appropriate type (likely DOT 3 or DOT 4), which can be found in the owner’s manual.If the brakes work fine, the brake fluid probably wasn’t maintained or it may not have been topped off during a brake job, but it’s still a good idea to check the rest of the brake system for leaks. Check the Brake Lines Inspect the brake flex hoses and steel lines for leaking. The flex hose leads from the caliper to the steel lines, which lead to the brake master cylinder, and the brake lines will be the smaller of the steel lines underneath the vehicle (the larger steel lines being the fuel lines). Check the lines and hoses on both sides of the vehicle for breaks, cracks, or signs of a fluid leak, and check the steel lines for softness. Check the Brake Drum If your car has a brake drum in the rear, meaning the brake shoes are inside the rotor and the rotor does not have brake pads on the outside, you’ll have to remove the tire and the drum to check the wheel cylinders, or you can visually inspect them from behind. Check the backside of the backing plate for darker spots or wetness. You’ll more than likely find moisture around where the brake line enters the drum or on the backside of the backing plate. The wheel turning will cause the fluid to spurt out. Check the Brake Caliper The brake caliper has a dust seal that protects a second seal embedded in the caliper. This second seal prevents brake fluid from leaking out of the caliper. If this inner seal is damaged, brake fluid will leak out of the dust boot and will manifest as low brake fluid and a spongy brake pedal. If part of the dust boot has signs of dampness and brake fluid leaking, the inner seal is damaged and the entire brake caliper needs to be replaced. Check the Parking Brake If the brake light is on on the dashboard, check the parking brake. Sometimes this light turns on when the parking brake is engaged. Disengaging the parking brake should turn it off. Check the Brake Light Bulbs Some vehicles engage the brake light if the brake light bulbs have burned out. Put the car in Park, and then have an assistant stand behind the car enough to see the brake lights. Press the brake pedal and see if the lights turn off. If not, replace the burnt out brake light bulb. Check the ABS system If your vehicle doesn’t have a separate light for the ABS system, which can be confirmed by checking the owner’s manual, it may turn on the brake light when there is a problem with the ABS.Read more about how to inspect the ABS wheel speed sensors Find out how to diagnose and replace parts on different makes and models with our how-to videos. We have thousands of videos with installation instructions and tips to help you fix your own car. There are several reasons why the brake light on your dashboard is on. Unfortunately, the fixes range from potential DIY’s – to repair work. To help you rule things out before making a repair appointment, I’ve outlined potential reasons your brake light is on, and what you can do to fix each one. So, what are the reasons your brake light is on, and how can you fix it? The parking brake is engaged or stuckLow brake fluidNeed new brake padsBrake light bulbs need replacingProblem with anti-lock brake system (ABS) Continue reading for the complete details on each of these problems and, more importantly, how to fix them. The most common reason your brake light might be on is the parking brake is engaged or broken, low brake fluid, your car needs new brake pads, or your brake light bulbs need to be replaced. If handled quickly and properly, these should be low cost, no problem fixes. And depending on who you are and what you know, you could potentially perform some of these fixes yourself! Additionally, a problem with the anti-lock brake system (ABS) could also be the culprit of a dashboard brake light. However, I’d leave the diagnosing and fixing of ABS up to a technician. Below, I detail the specifics of each reason your brake light might be on and offer potential fixes for each problem. Some vehicles have a separate dashboard light for the parking/ emergency brake, but in others, it’s the same as the general brake light signal. If you see your brake light on as you’re about to drive your car, make sure your parking brake is completely disengaged. How to Fix: This goes without saying – put the e-brake down. However, if you suspect the emergency brake might be stuck or broken, try to get to a mechanic ASAP. Driving with the parking brake on causes unnecessary damage and wear to brake pads and rotors, so if you suspect the brake itself is the problem, you should try to get it fixed as soon as you can. The general brake light on the dashboard may indicate low brake fluid. In some vehicles, this is indicated by a yellow circle with an exclamation (!) mark in the middle of it. When the light is yellow, it means the brake fluid is low but the vehicle still has enough to function. If it turns red, see a mechanic or professional. Additionally, a flashing red light could also signal low/no brake fluid, which causes a serious issue with the brake’s hydraulic system. If the light comes on and stays on, you could end up having a potentially catastrophic brake failure – which might hurt more than just your bank account if it happens at the wrong time and place. (See: IF BRAKE LIGHT COMES ON WHILE DRIVING) How to Fix: To rule out brake fluid as a cause for the brake light signal, you can learn how to check your brake fluid here, so you don’t have to pay someone else to troubleshoot this for you. If checking it yourself isn’t an option, any automotive repair shop can diagnose this, and change the brake fluid if need be. Many auto parts stores may also be willing to check your brake fluid and fill it for you if it just needs to be topped off (after you buy the brake fluid, of course). Regardless of how you diagnose low/ old brake fluid as the cause, filling it or having it changed should fix the brake light problem immediately. It’s important to note that the underlying cause of low brake fluid may be leaking brakes. If you replace/ fill the brake fluid, and the dashboard light problem is resolved but comes back on after some time, consider having your brakes checked for a leak. How to Fix: An automotive technician will have to diagnose and fix a brake leak. However, it’s usually a relatively easy and low-cost fix, depending on the location of the leak in the brake, and whether or not more damage has been sustained to the brake system. Leaks can occur in brake hoses, brake lines, disc brake calipers, drum brake wheel cylinders, or the master cylinder itself, and wet spots at hose or line connections may indicate a leak that needs to be fixed, according to aa1car.com. Due to the potential complexity of the problem, the leak location, and the severity of the damage that could be caused if not properly resolved, this fix is best left up to the professionals. If you need a good auto repairman, Angie’s List is a great resource to find auto technicians and research average repair prices based on location and service needs. REMEMBER: If you have a leak in your brakes, it’s important to have it fixed ASAP, as you may find yourself unable to stop your vehicle if all the fluid drains from the master cylinder (sudden brake failure). If you’re out driving and your brake light spontaneously comes on, don’t panic, but be aware that you’ll need to get out of the flow of traffic and parked as quickly and safely as possible. Since vehicles have two separate brake hydraulic systems that connect the brake pedal to the wheels, you should still be able to safely bring your car to a stop if you’re having a problem with one of the systems. Keep in mind that your car may not stop as quickly when operating on one hydraulic system. How to Fix: Once you’re out of the flow of traffic and safely parked, make arrangements for a tow-truck to take your vehicle to your favorite auto repair shop, and call yourself an Uber (or a great friend!). An automotive technician will be able to diagnose the cause of the spontaneous brake light sensor, and quickly fix it for you, so you can get back on the road safely. In this situation, continuing to drive your vehicle while the brake light sensor is alerted puts you at risk for sudden brake failure if both hydraulic systems which operate the brakes stop working. If one goes out, the other is sure to follow if the problem isn’t resolved quickly. Since the dashboard brake light indicates a problem with the entire braking system, in some vehicles the brake light will indicate worn-out brake pads or another problem with them. A handy feature! How to Fix: Make an appointment with the car doc to have the brake pads checked and replaced. If you have any car mechanic friends, this is something they could easily do in the driveway with the right tools and a car jack, should you find yourself needing to save some cash. Keep in mind that ensuring the integrity of your brake pads helps ensure the safety of yourself, your passengers, and those you share the road with, so if this is the problem, have it taken care of sooner than later. Many vehicles cue the dashboard brake warning light if/when the rear brake lights are dim or burned out. Very helpful! How to Fix: To check for this issue, have a friend stand behind your car (when in park) while you press on the brake pedal. If both red brake lights don’t come on, one or both need to be replaced! You can find out what kind of brake light bulbs your car needs in the owner’s manual, but this information is also google-able. In fact, this website helps you find exactly the right bulb for your car, just type in the general specs of your car and select which type of light bulb you need, and voilá! Once you have the proper bulb, replacing a brake light is no problem – check out this short video for how to easily change brake light bulbs yourself! However, if you aren’t up for the DIY task, no worries. When you buy the bulb from the auto parts store, you might be able to talk one of the employees into showing you how to replace it, if they have time. If not, this is a 5-minute repair anyone at an auto repair shop should be able to help you with, at potentially little to no cost to you. Most modern vehicles have anti-lock brake systems that prevent the wheels from locking up or tires from losing traction when driving in slick conditions. Depending on the vehicle, the dashboard light for this may be a separate ABS light, but it could also be the same as the general brake warning light. An electrical malfunction or problem with the wheel speed sensor would cause a problem with the anti-lock brake system, which would signal a general brake system warning. How to Fix: An automotive technician will be able to run a diagnostic test to determine if there is an issue with the ABS and find a solution. REMEMBER: If the brake light on your dash is on, you’re either experiencing a malfunction in the car’s braking system, or you’re about to. It is generally unsafe to drive your car with the brake light on, and it should be addressed immediately. Furthermore, a problem with the vehicle’s master brake system may also impact the performance of your brake lights, potentially causing them to malfunction. Or, as mentioned above, the dashboard light may be alerting you to a problem with the brake light bulbs. If you’re experiencing problems with the brake lights themselves, below I’ve outlined potential reasons why your brake lights aren’t working, and how to fit it. Common brake light problems include brake lights being stuck on, perpetually being off, or working intermittently. If your brake light is stuck on, it is likely due to a bad brake light switch or a blown fuse. Fortunately, these are both simple problems that you may be able to potentially fix yourself. And if you can’t “DIY it,” the repair should be very quick and very low cost, especially if you purchase the parts yourself from an auto parts store, and then pay someone to fix it for you. A broken brake light switch is commonly associated with brake lights being stuck on. If the brake light switch shorts internally, it can cause the brake lights to stay lit, without the brake pedal being pressed. If left unchecked, this will cause your brake lights to burn out sooner than they should, and will slowly drain your battery. How to Fix: I would personally make an appointment for my car, but if you’re in a fix-it-yourself mood, here’s a how-to article on diagnosing and fixing brake light switches. If you want to know more about brake light switches, check out this article, and remember that your vehicle is unsafe to drive if it has a faulty brake light switch! A blown or broken fuse could be the culprit of a stuck brake light. It could also be the cause for a brake light that doesn’t work, even after replacing the bulb. How to Fix: Replace the fuse. The owner’s manual will tell you which fuse box houses the fuse for your brake lights, and which type of fuse to replace it with. If you’re not feeling confident replacing it yourself, ask around for someone to help you. Chances are someone in your family, or a friend or co-worker can easily help you replace a blown fuse. Similarly, if your brake lights are out, common reasons are: Burnt out bulbBad or broken brake light switchBlown fuseBad socketNo power – poor ground connection This is by far the most common reason your brake light is out, which makes sense when you think about how long the bulb is being illuminated when we press the brake pedal (the entire time), and how infrequently we change our brake lights. How to Fix: Replace the bad or broken bulb. The owner’s manual will tell you what kind of bulb your car needs, but this is also information an auto parts shop can look up for you, or you can use this website to do a bulb search by vehicle. If you plan on changing the bulb yourself but need some guidance – click here to view an in-depth written pictorial guide on how to change a brake light bulb. Click here to watch a YouTube video on it. The brake light switch – the same thing that can cause a brake light to be stuck on, can cause it to be perpetually “out,” despite newly changed bulbs. How to Fix: Replace the brake light switch. Like I said earlier, I’d personally find someone to do this for me, but this video provides a great how-to for doing it yourself if you’re interested in doing so. A blown fuse can be the cause for a brake light that doesn’t work, even after the light bulb has been replaced. How to Fix: Replace the fuse. The owner’s manual will tell you which fuse box houses the fuse for your brake lights, and which type of fuse to replace it with. If a single brake light is out, but the bulb is good, there might be a problem with the light socket itself. Over time the connections in the sockets become dirty or corroded, or the wiring becomes worn to the point of making only intermittent connections. This minor electrical problem would cause a brake light not to illuminate when the brake pedal is pressed, which is a ticket or fender-bender waiting to happen. How to Fix: Anyone at a local automotive repair shop should be able to replace the bad socket by cutting out the old socket and bad wires and splicing in the new part. A poor or broken brake light ground connection will result in the brake lights not working, or power cross-feeding through the tail light circuit, which will keep the tail and brake lights from operating at the same time. How to Fix: If you’re a car or electrical savvy person and have the right tools, you may be able to perform this fix yourself – check out this article for a DIY outline. For the rest of us, it’s probably time to make an appointment at the car repair shop and let a technician diagnose and fix this for us. The braking system in our cars is one of the most important components of our vehicles, as being able to safely stop when we want and need to, is just as important as being able to get to the places we need to go. When it comes to dashboard alert signals, the brake warning light is not one to be ignored or taken lightly. In this circumstance, it’s much better to be safe than sorry, so get your vehicle serviced soon! For the longevity of our vehicles and the safety of ourselves, our passengers, and those we share the roadway with, it’s important to have any potential brake issues checked out by a professional, to make sure the problem(s) is adequately resolved before putting yourself and others at risk. Driving a vehicle is a significant responsibility, and it’s essential to be aware of the various warning lights that appear on the dashboard. Among these, the brake light is one of the most critical indicators that requires immediate attention. When the brake light is on, it can cause anxiety and uncertainty among drivers, especially if they’re not familiar with the meaning behind it. In this comprehensive guide, we’ll delve into the world of brake lights and explore what it means when your brake light is on.The brake light is a safety feature designed to alert the driver and other road users of potential brake issues. It’s usually located on the dashboard, and when illuminated, it indicates that there’s a problem with the brake system. Ignoring the brake light can lead to severe consequences, including accidents, injuries, and even fatalities. Therefore, it’s crucial to understand the causes and implications of a brake light and take prompt action to address the issue.Understanding Brake LightsBrake lights are an essential safety feature that helps prevent accidents by alerting other drivers of potential brake issues. When you press the brake pedal, the brake light illuminates, signaling to other road users that you’re slowing down or stopping. There are different types of brake lights, including:Stop lamps: These lights are designed to indicate when the vehicle is coming to a complete stop.Turn signals: These lights indicate when the vehicle is turning or changing lanes.Brake lamps: These lights indicate when the vehicle is slowing down or stopping.Brake lights are usually connected to the vehicle’s electrical system and are powered by the battery. When the brake pedal is pressed, an electrical signal is sent to the brake light, causing it to illuminate. The brake light is an important safety feature that helps prevent accidents by alerting other drivers of potential brake issues.Causes of a Brake LightA brake light can be caused by a variety of factors, including:Worn-Out Brake PadsWorn-out brake pads are one of the most common causes of a brake light. When brake pads wear out, they can no longer provide adequate braking power, causing the brake light to illuminate. Worn-out brake pads can be caused by:Excessive brake wearIncorrect brake pad installationFailure to replace brake pads on timeWorn-out brake pads can lead to reduced braking power, increased stopping distance, and even brake failure. It’s essential to replace brake pads regularly to maintain optimal braking performance.Low Brake Fluid LevelA low brake fluid level can cause the brake light to illuminate. Brake fluid is essential for lubricating the brake system and transferring pressure to the brake pads. A low brake fluid level can be caused by:Leaks in the brake systemIncorrect brake fluid levelBrake fluid contaminationA low brake fluid level can lead to reduced braking power, increased stopping distance, and even brake failure. It’s essential to check the brake fluid level regularly and top it up as needed.Brake Light Bulb FailureA brake light bulb failure can cause the brake light to illuminate. Brake light bulbs are designed to last for a long time, but they can fail due to:AgeUsageManufacturing defectsA brake light bulb failure can lead to reduced visibility and increased stopping distance. It’s essential to replace brake light bulbs regularly to maintain optimal visibility. (See Also: How Many Miles Do You Change Brake Pads? Typical Replacement)Electrical IssuesElectrical issues can cause the brake light to illuminate. Electrical issues can be caused by:Short circuitsLoose connectionsFaulty wiringElectrical issues can lead to reduced braking power, increased stopping distance, and even brake failure. It’s essential to diagnose and repair electrical issues promptly to maintain optimal braking performance.Consequences of Ignoring a Brake LightIgnoring a brake light can lead to severe consequences, including:AccidentsAccidents can occur when a brake light is ignored, causing injuries, fatalities, and property damage. A brake light can alert other drivers of potential brake issues, preventing accidents.Injuries and FatalitiesInjuries and fatalities can occur when a brake light is ignored, causing harm to drivers, passengers, and pedestrians. A brake light can alert other drivers of potential brake issues, preventing injuries and fatalities.Property DamageProperty damage can occur when a brake light is ignored, causing damage to vehicles, buildings, and other infrastructure. A brake light can alert other drivers of potential brake issues, preventing property damage.Diagnosing a Brake LightDiagnosing a brake light requires a thorough inspection of the brake system. Here are some steps to diagnose a brake light:Check the Brake Fluid LevelCheck the brake fluid level to ensure it’s at the recommended level. A low brake fluid level can cause the brake light to illuminate.Inspect the Brake PadsInspect the brake pads to ensure they’re in good condition. Worn-out brake pads can cause the brake light to illuminate.Check the Brake Light BulbCheck the brake light bulb to ensure it’s functioning properly. A brake light bulb failure can cause the brake light to illuminate.Inspect the Electrical SystemInspect the electrical system to ensure there are no short circuits, loose connections, or faulty wiring. Electrical issues can cause the brake light to illuminate. (See Also: How Long Does Car Brake Pads Last? – Ultimate Guide)Repairing a Brake LightRepairing a brake light requires a thorough inspection and diagnosis of the brake system. Here are some steps to repair a brake light:Replace Worn-Out Brake PadsReplace worn-out brake pads with new ones to ensure optimal braking performance.Top Up Brake FluidTop up the brake fluid level to ensure it’s at the recommended level.Replace the Brake Light BulbReplace the brake light bulb with a new one to ensure optimal visibility.Repair Electrical IssuesRepair electrical issues by replacing short circuits, tightening loose connections, and replacing faulty wiring.Preventing Brake Light IssuesPreventing brake light issues requires regular maintenance of the brake system. Here are some steps to prevent brake light issues:Regular Brake Pad ReplacementReplace brake pads regularly to ensure optimal braking performance.Regular Brake Fluid ChecksCheck the brake fluid level regularly to ensure it’s at the recommended level.Regular Brake Light Bulb ReplacementReplace brake light bulbs regularly to ensure optimal visibility.Regular Electrical System InspectionsInspect the electrical system regularly to ensure there are no short circuits, loose connections, or faulty wiring. (See Also: How Often To Replace Brake Rotors? A Definitive Guide)ConclusionIn conclusion, a brake light is a critical safety feature that requires immediate attention. Ignoring a brake light can lead to severe consequences, including accidents, injuries, and fatalities. It’s essential to understand the causes and implications of a brake light and take prompt action to address the issue. Regular maintenance of the brake system can prevent brake light issues, ensuring optimal braking performance and safety on the road.RecapHere’s a recap of the key points discussed in this article:Brake lights are an essential safety feature that helps prevent accidents by alerting other drivers of potential brake issues.A brake light can be caused by a variety of factors, including worn-out brake pads, low brake fluid level, brake light bulb failure, and electrical issues.Ignoring a brake light can lead to severe consequences, including accidents, injuries, and fatalities.Diagnosing a brake light requires a thorough inspection of the brake system.Repairing a brake light requires a thorough inspection and diagnosis of the brake system.Preventing brake light issues requires regular maintenance of the brake system.Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)FAQs: What Does it Mean When My Brake Light Is on?Q: What does a brake light indicate?A brake light indicates that there’s a problem with the brake system, and it’s essential to address the issue promptly to ensure safety on the road.Q: What are the common causes of a brake light?The common causes of a brake light include worn-out brake pads, low brake fluid level, brake light bulb failure, and electrical issues.Q: Can I drive with a brake light on?No, it’s not recommended to drive with a brake light on, as it can lead to severe consequences, including accidents, injuries, and fatalities.Q: How do I diagnose a brake light?To diagnose a brake light

system (ABS) have an ABS warning light. ABS system problems can trigger the brake light and ABS warning light (if it has one) to turn on. The causes can range from an electrical malfunction to something as simple as a dirty wheel speed sensor. When this happens, have an auto professional review your ABS codes to determine the issue. Throughout your vehicle, there are many sensors linked to the brake system. This includes the hand brake sensor, master cylinder sensor, ABS sensor, and brake pad sensor. If any of these sensors malfunction, they could trigger your dash brake light to turn on. Some car computers monitor the rear brake light bulb, which could be a single red light bulb or even an LED bulb array. If a brake bulb goes out or dims, it may cause the brake warning light to turn on. This helps prevent rear-end collisions since drivers don't often realize their rear brake lights aren't working. While you can swap the rear brake light bulb yourself, getting a mechanic to do it is better, as each motor vehicle may have a different light bulb type and varying bulb socket access. Now that you know the causes, let's see what you can do when the brake light comes on. Here's how you can deal with an illuminated brake warning light in five different situations: If you haven't begun driving, check your handbrake and ensure it's completely released. If the brake light stays on even after you release the parking brake, you can check the brake fluid level and consider topping it off if it's low. It's best to get your mechanic to do this because your brakes may need to be bled of air. If you're driving and the dash brake light comes on, pay attention to your brake pedal. If there's a brake fluid leak in your car's brake system, your pedal may feel different. You can always stop at the first safe spot you find and then check the brake fluid level. If it's an emergency and your vehicle has a low brake fluid level, you can top it off (if you have fresh brake fluid). However, getting your vehicle to a trusted mechanic for a brake checkup is still important. If the parking brake is disengaged but the light remains on, it could indicate problems like worn brake pads, hydraulic brake pressure issues, or a need for parking brake adjustment. You should visit a mechanic for prompt replacement and adjustment, as neglecting these issues can compromise your safety and lead to your vehicle producing a weird brake noise. If your brake light illuminates only when you press the brake pedal, it may indicate hydraulic loss on one side of your vehicle or low brake fluid in the brake master cylinder. This can lead to a complete loss of braking ability, putting you and other drivers on the road in danger. When this happens, you should gradually reduce your speed and find a safe place to pull over. You can either call a mobile mechanic for a system inspection and brake repair or get your car towed. When you start your engine, the ABS light should briefly flash for a few seconds and then turn off, indicating a regular operation. However, if the ABS light stays on, it suggests a problem with your ABS, which is designed to prevent skidding and brake lockup. While you can still drive with the ABS warning light on, it's advisable to take your vehicle to a repair shop and get it checked. Got more questions?Let's explore some FAQs. Here are answers to some commonly asked questions about brake lights: When you depress the brake pedal, the brake booster amplifies the force from your foot. This force is converted into hydraulic pressure by the master cylinder. This hydraulic brake pressure is then transmitted through the brake fluid (in the brake line), engaging the brake mechanisms. The exact braking mechanism can vary based on your car. It could either be brake calipers that clamp the brake pads onto the rotor or brake disc (in disc brakes) or wheel cylinders that push the brake shoe against the brake drums (in drum brakes). When you turn on the vehicle ignition (but before you start the engine), each dash light should illuminate for a few seconds. This is designed to help you verify that each warning light and its corresponding system is operational before you start your journey. If some don't illuminate, it means there's likely a problem — like a blown fuse or a worn-out light bulb. Your best option is to leave this task to a mechanic. However, if it's an emergency, you can do it yourself — carefully by taking the following steps: Ensure that your car is in a secure and level location before you pop the hood to check the brake fluid level. Locate the brake fluid reservoir — usually found on the same side as the brake pedal, at the back of the engine compartment near the firewall. If the brake fluid reservoir is translucent, check the fluid level against a clearly labeled "FULL" (or "MAX") line without removing the reservoir cap. However, if it's not translucent, pop the cap and check the fluid level inside the reservoir. Note: Never leave the brake fluid reservoir open any longer than necessary, as moisture in the air can contaminate the brake fluid. Reverse your vehicle close to a wall and press the brakes. If your rear brake lights work fine, you should see a red glow on the wall. If there's no glow, you might have a problem with the brake light switch, a faulty bulb, or a blown fuse. It's also a good idea to ensure that all your car lights (including the headlight, tail light, turn signals, and fog light) are working while you're at it. To do this: Activate the light switches for the headlight, rear tail light, and fog light. Put the headlights in parking or auto light mode to see if your daytime running light works. Press the brake pedal to activate the brake light switch and the rear brake lights. Switch on the hazard light to flash the turn signal lights. If there's a problem with either of these, get them fixed ASAP, as they can affect your road safety. Some vehicles have different light bulbs for the turn signal and the brake light (rear light). Others may have a single light bulb with two filaments inside — doubling as the turn signal bulb and rear brake light bulb. Since the replacement can be cumbersome, it's best to let a professional handle it. Here's how a mechanic would change the bulb: Get the correct replacement bulb for your car or truck. Remove the tail light assembly to access the bulb socket. Smear some dielectric grease to the end of the new brake bulb before installing it to prevent corrosion. Install the replacement bulb. Reattach the tail light assembly. Fixing brake light warning issues can vary depending on the problem and your vehicle's make and model. You can expect to pay around $80 – $110 for a basic brake system inspection, but repair prices may vary based on labor rates in your area. Here are the estimated costs for addressing some brake light warning issues: The red brake warning light on your dash can indicate various issues, from ABS malfunction to worn brake pads. And driving with such braking system issues is never a good idea. Why not have a trusted mechanic come to you to address those brake issues?That's where AutoNation Mobile Service steps in. We're a mobile auto repair service available seven days a week, offering upfront pricing, easy online bookings, and a 12-month, 12,000-mile repair warranty. Contact us, and our skilled mobile mechanics will carry out all brake system replacements and repairs in your driveway. Article Content Driving with your brake light on can be concerning, as it often indicates a potential issue with your vehicle's braking system. When the brake light is illuminated, it may suggest that the brakes are engaged or that there is a malfunction that requires immediate attention. It's essential to understand the implications of this warning light before deciding to drive.First and foremost, if your brake light is on while driving, it could mean that the brake fluid level is low or that there is a problem with the brake system itself. Low brake fluid can lead to decreased braking efficiency, making it unsafe to drive. Additionally, a malfunctioning brake system can increase the risk of brake failure, which poses a significant danger to both the driver and others on the road.Here are some common reasons why your brake light might be on:Low brake fluid levelWorn brake padsFaulty brake light switchMalfunctioning anti-lock braking system (ABS)If you notice your brake light is on, it's crucial to take immediate action. Pull over safely and assess the situation. If you suspect that the brakes are compromised, it's best to avoid driving the vehicle until a qualified mechanic can inspect it. Ignoring the warning can lead to severe consequences, including accidents or further damage to the braking system. Always prioritize safety and address any warning lights promptly.What would cause the brake light on the dash to come on?When the brake light illuminates on your dashboard, it can signal various issues that may require immediate attention. Understanding the potential causes is essential for maintaining your vehicles safety and performance. One common reason for the brake light to activate is a low brake fluid level. This fluid is crucial for the hydraulic system that operates your brakes, and a decrease in fluid can indicate a leak or worn brake components. Checking the brake fluid reservoir should be one of your first steps if the brake light comes on.Another potential cause for the brake light to appear is worn brake pads. Many modern vehicles are equipped with sensors that detect the thickness of the brake pads. When they wear down to a certain level, the sensor triggers the brake light to alert the driver. Its vital to address this issue promptly, as continuing to drive with worn pads can lead to more significant brake system damage and compromised safety.See also How to Fix a Misfiring Cylinder: Step-by-Step GuideAdditionally, the brake light may illuminate due to an issue with the anti-lock braking system (ABS). If the ABS module detects a malfunction, it will activate the brake light as a warning. In this case, the vehicle may still be drivable, but it's crucial to have the ABS inspected by a professional to ensure optimal braking performance. Lastly, a faulty brake light switch can also cause the dashboard light to turn on. This switch is responsible for signaling when the brake pedal is pressed, and if it malfunctions, it can lead to the brake light illuminating even when there are no actual issues with the brake system. Checking this switch is an important diagnostic step when addressing a persistent brake light warning.How do I fix my brake warning light?If your brake warning light is illuminated on your dashboard, it's essential to address the issue promptly to ensure your vehicles safety. The brake warning light can indicate various problems, ranging from minor issues to serious safety concerns. Here are some steps you can take to troubleshoot and potentially fix the brake warning light.Check the Brake Fluid LevelOne of the most common reasons for a brake warning light is low brake fluid. Start by checking the brake fluid reservoir, typically located near the back of the engine bay. Follow these steps:Locate the brake fluid reservoir.Inspect the fluid level; it should be between the "MIN" and "MAX" marks.If the fluid is low, top it off with the appropriate brake fluid recommended for your vehicle.If adding brake fluid resolves the issue, monitor the fluid level regularly, as a continuous drop may indicate a leak in the brake system.Inspect the Brake System ComponentsIf the brake fluid level is adequate, the next step is to inspect other components of the brake system. Look for:Worn brake pads or shoesLeaking brake lines or hosesFaulty brake sensors or switchesIf you notice any visible damage or wear, it's advisable to have a professional mechanic examine and replace the affected parts.Check the Parking BrakeSometimes, the brake warning light can be triggered by the parking brake being engaged. Ensure that the parking brake is fully released. If the light remains on even after disengaging the parking brake, it may indicate a malfunction in the parking brake system or a faulty switch. In this case, a mechanic can diagnose the issue accurately.By following these steps, you can identify the underlying cause of your brake warning light and take appropriate actions to resolve it. Always prioritize safety and don't hesitate to seek professional help if needed.When your vehicles dashboard displays a brake pad warning light, it indicates that there is an issue with your braking system, particularly with the brake pads. While it may be tempting to continue driving, it is crucial to understand the implications of ignoring this warning. Driving with a brake pad warning light illuminated can lead to severe safety risks and further damage to your vehicle.See also Best Way to Clean WeatherTech Floor Mats: A Complete GuideFirst and foremost, the brake pad warning light typically signifies that your brake pads are worn down and may need immediate replacement. Continuing to drive in this condition can result in decreased braking efficiency, which could lead to longer stopping distances and increased chances of accidents. Therefore, its essential to assess the situation and consider the following factors:Brake Pad Condition: If you hear grinding noises or feel vibrations when braking, it's a clear sign that your brake pads are critically worn.Brake Fluid Levels: A warning light may also indicate low brake fluid, which can affect your overall braking system.Safety Risks: Driving with compromised brakes poses a significant risk to you and other road users.If you choose to drive with the brake pad warning light on, you may also be risking damage to other components of the braking system, such as the rotors. Worn brake pads can cause the rotors to wear unevenly, leading to costly repairs. Therefore, it's advisable to take the warning seriously and schedule a maintenance check as soon as possible. In summary, while you technically can drive with a brake pad warning light on, it is highly inadvisable due to the safety risks and potential for further vehicle damage. Prioritizing your vehicles braking system is crucial for your safety and the safety of others on the road. Is It Illegal to Drive with One Headlight? Find Out Here! Original Wiper Arm for 2017 Jeep Wrangler Ultimate Sport Top Rear Bumper Ends for 2010 F150 FX4: Quality & Fit Guaranteed How Long Should Coolant Last in Your Car? Essential Guide What is the Average Miles Driven Per Year on a Car? Find Out! How to Check a Relay in a Car: A Step-by-Step Guide How to Check Automatic Transmission Fluid Level: A Step-by-Step Guide How to Tell if a Coil Pack is Bad: Key Signs to Look For What Does Eco Mode Do in a Car? Benefits Explained Where to Donate Used Car Seats Near Me: Find Local Drop-off Spots Does Engine Oil Have a Shelf Life? Essential Facts You Need to Know Discover the Cheapest Car in the World: Affordable Options 2023 It is disconcerting to have your brake warning light popping up while driving. Your safety is at stake, so it's natural for you to be afraid. In this article, I'll discuss the brake system warning light – what does it mean when it comes on? When the brake warning light of your car suddenly comes on, it indicates that there's something wrong with your braking system. You must not disregard this warning. Act on it right away because it is dangerous to drive your car if its brake warning light is acting like this. Several things can trigger the brake warning light of your car. One of the most common reasons is the parking brake is still engaged. Another reason is the brake fluid level is low. Whatever is the cause, don't ignore this warning light because if this brake light comes on, it means your braking system is not working properly. That's dangerous. Read on to learn more about your car's brake system warning light and the possible reasons why it comes on. You should be alarmed when your brake system warning light comes on. It is not normal for this light to turn on. You need to know what the brake system warning light tells you. If you see it illuminated, there's something wrong with your car's brake system. You should not ignore this warning. Remember, car brakes are there for your safety. There could be many reasons why this brake warning light turns on. The most common cause is that the parking brake is still engaged while driving. Your car's braking system is composed of many parts. Any part that breaks down will trigger this brake warning light. Another possible reason is the brake fluid level is running low. One other reason is your battery is generating low voltage. While this is not directly related to the car's braking system, it can still trigger the brake warning light to turn on. Note that anything related to the braking system experiencing a problem can trigger this light. You must not drive too far when the brake light turns on. For instance, if the brake pads trigger the warning light, the farthest you can drive your car is around 1,000 miles. That's the farthest distance that your car can sustain efficient braking. Your brakes are one of the most important safety features of your car. So, when you see the brake warning light is on, you should pull off on the shoulder of the road and do a preliminary check. If you can't pinpoint the cause, you need to call for help. The oldest light on a car's dashboard is the brake light. Most people call the brake system warning light the 'brake' light. As I've mentioned above, there are many reasons for this brake light to turn on. Your car's braking system consists of a network of brake lines with small tubes with hydraulic oil flowing inside them. At one end of this network is the master cylinder, which is a pump. As you put your foot on the brake pedal, this master cylinder is actuated. Pressure is exerted on the brake fluid. On the other end of the brake lines are the brake calipers. There is one caliper on each wheel of the car. These calipers are hydraulic clamping mechanisms that force or push the brake pads against the brake rotors (metal discs). This creates friction so that your car can slow down and stop. The amount of brake fluid inside the brake lines should be the same to maintain the pressure on the brakes on demand. If there's a leak anywhere in this network of brake lines, the level of brake fluid will drop. When you step on the brake pedal, the right pressure will not be provided. Then you will lose the critical ability to stop your car when you need to. So, a leak will result in brake failure. To prevent this situation, a sensor is inserted into the master cylinder or pump that will trigger the brake light if the brake fluid level is running low. The brake warning light is activated on older cars when the car being driven has its parking brake still engaged. The warning light is triggered because of the dangerous situation. Is It Safe to Drive With the ABS and Brake System Lights On? The brake warning light turns on because the braking sensor was triggered by something that can compromise the car's braking system. What are the things that can trigger this sensor? Brake fluid from the reservoir flows inside the brake fluid hoses and goes into the calipers. A leak in any one of these hoses will compromise the operation of your braking system. To catch your attention, the brake warning light will turn on. Check the brake fluid level on the container. Perhaps it has dropped because of the leak somewhere. Check under your car and look for drips or puddles of brake fluid on the ground. If you find where it is dripping, trace the brake hose in all the wheels until you find the exact spot the leak is coming from. You've checked everything, and all seems fine in your brake line hoses, brake pads, etc. And yet, that pesky brake warning light is still on. What could be the problem? Perhaps the problem is the brake fluid sensor itself. This sensor is susceptible to failure and damage. You need to perform a simple brake fluid level sensor test. If the sensor fails this test, replace it if you can. If not, have it replaced by a qualified mechanic. Brake pads and brake discs are constantly subjected to friction while your car is running. So, over time they will wear out and eventually fail. When these two are no longer functioning properly, they will not be able to apply the right braking pressure each time you put your foot on the brake pedal. It will require more brake fluid to cover the extra distance they need to travel. Under this condition, they will use up more brake fluid, which will result in a reduced brake fluid level in the reservoir. All these situations will trigger the brake warning light on your dashboard. Forgetting that the parking brake is still engaged and driving the car head-on is one of the most common reasons the brake warning light turns on. It can also happen that the parking brake is not fully disengaged while the car is running. Not fully disengaging the parking brake and driving the car will result in premature wearing of the brake pads. It can also result in damage to the wheel bearing. The most serious consequence of this habit is a complete failure of the car's braking system. The effect of an incompletely disengaged parking brake before driving is different for front-wheel drives and rear-wheel drives. There is less risk of damage to a front-wheel drive than a rear-wheel drive. There's a good chance that the vehicle will not be able to move forward for the front wheels if the parking brake is still engaged. So, there will be little damage to the vehicle. But in rear-wheel drives, the engine can overpower the parking brake. So, the driver can drive the car without getting any warning. Sometimes, the car could give an audible warning. At other times it will produce a strange smell indicating that something is amiss. If the brake warning light turns on and you find it because you haven't fully disengaged the parking brake, disengage it to the full, and the light will go away. But if the light stays on, it is not just the parking brake that is your problem. If you have a modern car, it is probably equipped with an ABS or Anti-Lock Braking System. It is a good safety feature, but it can also go bad. If the ABS in your car is having some issues, the ABS warning light will turn on. Several errors could trigger this light on your dashboard. Thankfully, your car's ECU has an error code system that can specifically identify the cause of the problem. Car mechanics use a special tool, the Onboard Diagnostics (OBD) scanner, to determine the exact cause of the problem. Thankfully, even if your ABS malfunctions, you can still drive your car. But you won't be able to use its anti-lock features. The soonest you can, have it checked by a qualified mechanic if you want the added safety advantage that ABS brings into your driving experience. Again, what does it mean when the brake system warning light is on? When your car's brake system warning light is on, it has a low hydraulic fluid (brake fluid), or you engaged its parking brakes. A brake consists of brake lines and tubes with hydraulic oil. One of the most common problems vehicle owners encounter is tail lights going bad. This issue cannot directly affect the performance of the vehicle. But it can directly affect your safety on the road. You will not be able to see this problem while it is developing. You have no way of seeing your tail lights while you are driving. But you will discover it once a police officer stops you because you are driving a vehicle with defective brake lights. So, if the brake light warning system lights up on your dashboard, it will be good to check your taillights. Probably, the warning light is being triggered by the malfunctioning brake lights. If your brake lights are going bad, replace them as soon as possible. Battery problems can also trigger the brake warning light. If the battery supplies low voltage to the car's electrical system, it can lead to different electrical issues. One manifestation of this issue is the flickering of the lights on your dashboard and the cabin lights. Or perhaps, the brake warning light comes on and off. This usually happens when your car is idle. But when you rev the engine, the lights go bright. A low-voltage battery will also have trouble starting up your engine. To fix this issue, charge your battery to its fullest. And then check if the problem is solved or not. If it seems to solve the problem for a while, but then the problem comes back again, bring your battery to the battery shop and have it checked. If it's old, you probably have to replace it. If the brake fluid in the reservoir is too low, it will also trigger the brake warning light on your dashboard. A sensor inside the pump or master cylinder relays your vehicle's ECU information and turns on the light. There are two sections in the brake fluid reservoir. This is to make sure that your car always has the correct amount of brake fluid to be able to stop your vehicle whenever you need to. If one section fails, there is another section that will carry on with the job. But if both sections fail, then you are driving dangerously. And this is one of the reasons why the brake warning light turns on. If this happens, bring your car to the nearest car repair shop to examine why this light was triggered. Why Your Brake Lamp Warning Light Turns On The brake warning light on your dashboard is not there to annoy you. Its function is to ensure your safety each time you drive your vehicle. However, it won't be able to perform its function if it can't communicate with you. So, to be sure that it is always working correctly. You can straightforwardly do this. During start-ups, after you've turned on the ignition system but before you turn on the engine, observe if the brake warning light lights up on your dashboard. Your vehicle's warning lights should light up when you turn on the ignition system. That includes the brake warning light. After a few seconds, they will all turn off. This is the self-check of your vehicle to see if all the warning lights are working. If one of the warning lights doesn't turn on, it is an indication that that light is not working. So, be familiar with all these warning lights to know which one is not working when they won't show up whenever you start your vehicle. Since you don't know why the brake warning light has turned on, it is unsafe to continue driving while it is on. The best move you can make is to drive to the shoulder of the road and stop your vehicle. There are many possible causes of this warning light coming on. Since you are on the road, you won't be able to perform an exhaustive examination of your vehicle. You can call for help and get your vehicle towed to the nearest car repair shop to have it checked. How to Fix Brake Lamp Bulb Fault Here are some of the questions frequently asked about brake warning lights and their respective answers. Reading them will help you better remember the points discussed in this article: The wisest thing to do if the brake warning light stays on is to lower your speed, drive to the shoulder and stop. Call for a towing service and get your car to the nearest car shop so they can check your braking system. Driving with a warning light on your braking system is dangerous. The most common reason for triggering the brake warning light is that the parking brake is still engaged while the car is being driven. Another usual reason is the brake fluid level is running too low. Don't panic if suddenly your brake warning light comes on. You have more than one hydraulic system in your hydraulic braking system. It will take longer for your car to come to a complete stop than normal. But if you can, pull over the shoulder and call for a towing service so they can bring your car to the repair shop or your home. If your brake warning lights suddenly turn on, it tells you that something is going wrong with your car's braking system. It will be dangerous to disregard this warning because a good and working braking system spells the difference between a safe and a disastrous trip. You should investigate the reason why it suddenly came on. There are several reasons why this brake warning light comes on. You need to know the common reasons to be prepared and not panic when this issue suddenly pops up while you are driving. Read next: Honda Brake Fluid [What You Need to Know] How Long Does It Take to Bleed Brakes? Your vehicle's dashboard features a variety of warning indicators. The brake system warning light is one of the most famous warning lights. The brake warning light is designed to ensure your safety by alerting you to issues with your braking system. A brake warning light may activate due to several causes, such as incorrect wiring, insufficient fluid, compromised brake lines, and more. In this article, we will explore the reasons why your brake light illuminates and how to fix them.What does the Brake Warning Light Mean?The brake warning light indicates that your parking brake is engaged, fluid leak, or the brake fluid is low. In any of these situations, a switch within the brake system activates the warning light to alert the driver.As the driver engages the parking brake, the brake handle turns off a switch, illuminating the brake warning light. This warning may also start illuminating if the brake fluid level or the fluid pressure becomes lower than a specific limit.Driving with non-functioning brake lights is highly dangerous, but it is equally hazardous to have brake lights that remain on constantly.Causes of Brake LightIn the event that the brake warning light illuminates and remains on while starting the car, avoid driving it. In such conditions, you should shut off your engine and investigate the potential reasons for the problem.When the brake warning light turns on during driving or in traffic, remain calm. Your car is equipped with multiple hydraulic braking systems. However, your braking system may take slightly longer to completely stop the vehicle than usual.The brake warning light may illuminate due to one or more of the below-given causes:Insufficient Brake FluidBad Parking BrakeFaulty Brake PadsBad Brake Light SwitchFaulty Brake Pedal SpringBrake Pedal is StuckFaulty Electrical System1) Insufficient Brake FluidInsufficient brake fluid is one of the major causes of brake light illumination. Brake fluid is a hydraulic fluid that is very important for the efficient performance of the brake system.As the driver depresses the brake pedal, the pressurized brake fluid in the brake lines and hoses forces the piston in the brake caliper to exert pressure on the internal brake pad. This action compresses the pads against the brake rotor, enabling you to slow down.To inspect the brake fluid, first, locate the brake fluid reservoir. This reservoir is typically installed on the driver's side and made of yellow or white plastic.Next, assess the fluid level. The reservoir has maximum and minimum markings to indicate the ideal fluid level. If the fluid level is lower than the minimum marking, then you need to add new brake fluid. But make sure to remove the old brake fluid before adding fresh fluid.Read More: Low Brake Fluid Symptoms and Causes2) Bad Parking BrakeA partially engaged parking brake is also a major cause of the brake light illumination. To resolve this issue, simply release the parking brake completely.3) Faulty Brake PadsThe brake pad of your vehicle experiences wear and tear over time. When these pads become excessively worn, it's crucial to replace them.4) Bad Brake Light Switch or SensorOne primary reason for brake light illumination is a malfunctioning switch within the brake system.The brake system sensors and switches control the communication between the pedal's position and the brake lights. If any of these components are faulty, the lights may receive incorrect information and start illuminating.5) Faulty Brake Pedal SpringThe brake pedal spring enables the brake pedal to return to its original position once you release it. As the spring ages, it can lose its strength.When the pedal spring goes bad, your pedal will not be able to return to its natural position; due to that, the brake warning light starts illuminating. Moreover, this issue may lead to brake pads staying engaged, resulting in further wear on both the rotor and pads.6) Brake Pedal is StuckHaving a faulty brake pedal can be even more problematic than a worn-out spring. If the brake pedal does not return from the floor to its original position, the brake light will remain on. Your vehicle's pedal needs to return to its initial position to close the switch and the warning light to turn off.Properly examine the brake pedal. Apply force to press down on the pedal. If it reaches the floor, there might be a leak or air in your braking system. A firm pedal, on the other hand, is a positive sign.7) Faulty Electrical SystemAn issue in the electrical system can impact various parts of the braking system and may trigger the brake light. If you do not fix the issues related to the braking system, the brake warning light will continuously illuminate on your vehicle's dashboard.Troubleshooting an electrical fault may be the most complex cause to address and should only be considered once other potential sources have been eliminated.How to reset the Brake Warning Light?Follow the below-given steps to reset the illuminated brake system warning light:Park your vehicle on a leveled surface.You need to properly check the brake fluid level in the brake fluid reservoir. Add more fluid if needed.Check the fluid color. If it is contaminated, change it.Check the electrical system of your braking system. If your wirings are damaged, repair or replace them.Strongly press the brake pedal to park your vehicle. If it slowly sinks to the floor, you need to replace it.Replace the damaged or faulty braking system sensor.Replace the bad ABSCheck the parking brake and ensure that it is fully disengaged.Replace the damaged brake light switch.FAQ SectionUsually, the brake warning light turns on when your parking brake is engaged. However, if the red or orange warning light remains illuminated even after disengaging the parking brake, it's essential to have your brakes checked by a professional as soon as possible.Yes, you can, but it is not recommended to drive with an illuminated brake system warning light. Neglecting the brake system issues may result in further harm to the braking system and poses a safety risk. Failing to address the problem on time may lead to a partial or complete breakdown of the brakes. There are multiple causes of an illuminated brake service warning light, such as an issue with the parking brake, hydraulic problems, insufficient brake fluid, or worn-out brake pads. If the brake service warning light activates upon pressing the pedal, this may indicate hydraulic loss on one side of the car or insufficient brake fluid in the fluid reservoir.Adding more brake fluid if neededReplacing the bad parking brakeReplacing the faulty or worn brake padsReplacing the bad brake light switchReplacing the faulty brake pedal springFixing the stuck brake pedalReplacing the electrical issuesInsufficient brake fluidBad parking brakeFaulty brake padsBad brake light switchFaulty brake pedal springStuck brake pedalFaulty electrical systemFirst of all, you need to make sure that the parking brake is completely disengaged to reset the parking brake light. If this light is still on, examine the brake fluid level and add more if needed. If this problem continues, it may direct a more severe issue with your braking system, and you must contact a professional mechanic to fix it. Back When a check engine light comes on it's a scary sight. It can turn an otherwise great day into a stressful one in an instant. Unfortunately, there are other lights that can show up on the dashboard that are just as frightening. One of these examples is a brake warning light. Just like a check engine light, it will only get worse if you ignore it. While the time varies on how soon larger problems can occur, the point stands that driving with a possibly faulty brake system can put your wallet and your most precious cargo at risk. Here's a quick guide to help you diagnose the problem and resolve it quickly. Some common brake lights that can show up on a dashboard include: This light is a warning that brake pads are getting too worn and should be replaced soon: If these lights go off and on repeated or when you turn, it can mean to check the brake fluid level in the master cylinder: This brake light indicates that there is an issue with your parking brake, or it is still engaged: These lights indicate different possible issues within your braking system. All vehicles are different, which means the brake warning indicator could be different on your vehicle than these. Refer to your vehicle's Owner's Manual to be certain which light pertains to your specific vehicle. *Note: ABS Warning Lights can sometimes be related to the hydraulic brake system, but have to do specifically with your vehicle's Anti-Lock Brake System. When Did the Brake Warning Light Show Up? If the brake warning light comes on and stays on when you start your vehicle, do not begin to drive it. Turn your car off and inspect the possible causes of the issue (we will get to those soon). If the brake warning light comes on while you are in traffic or driving, don't panic. Your vehicle has more than one hydraulic braking system. So, while it may take a little longer to come to a complete stop than usual, safely pull over and have your vehicle towed to your home or to a trusted mechanic to inspect. Again, it is important that you do not continue driving and ignore the brake light, this can cause more damage to the braking system and be very dangerous. *Pro Tip: when you first turn on your vehicle, all the lights on the dashboard should illuminate. If you see one or more do not turn on, you may have a problem with the specific indicator. Inspecting & Fixing the Issue: Now that we know what the light showing on the dashboard means, we can inspect certain parts of the brake system and if we find the problem, fix it! 1) Brake Fluid Brake fluid is essential to brake performance. When you press the brake pedal, pressurized fluid in the brake hoses/brake lines force a piston in the calipers to apply pressure on the inner brake pads, squeezing the pads and brake rotor for you to slow down. To check it, first, find the master cylinder (also called brake fluid reservoir) (pictured below). It is usually white or yellow plastic and located on the driver's side. Then, check the fluid level. There should be minimum and maximum markings on the side of the reservoir to show the optimal range of fluid. If you find the fluid is too low, add new brake fluid to the reservoir. However, you will need to flush your brake fluid before adding new fluid. Another thing to check is the brake pedal. Press down on the pedal with force. If it goes to the floor, there may be a leak or air in the brake system. If the pedal feels firm, that is a good thing. 2) Parking Brake Depending on what type of parking brake your vehicle is equipped with, you may find that it could be still slightly engaged. If so, the parking brake specific warning light indicator will illuminate. To fix this issue, just release the parking brake all the way. 3) Brake Pads & Sensors Brake pads wear over time and use. When they wear too much, you should replace them. Here is an easy tool to demonstrate different thickness intervals of brake pads: The "good" range would represent a new or unused brake pad. It is a recommended to replace the pads as the thickness of the pad wears down to ~4.5mm and below. A pad in the "replace now" range can have poor stopping power and begin to damage the rotor. Some vehicles' brake pads use electronic sensor wires. They are a safety component that alerts you (through a brake pad warning light) when your pads are too worn. Basically, the sensor connects in the brake pad and comes in contact with the rotor when the minimum thickness of the pad has been reached. For more about sensor wires and how they work with your brake system, check out this video: Found your brake pads to be too worn? It's time to replace them. Letting the mechanic put any old off-the-shelf parts on your car shouldn't be the first option, though. You want long-lasting confidence in your brake system, and not all brakes are made equal. Because of this, more and more people are researching, reading reviews, and watching video to find the best replacement upgrade. Fortunately, it's easier than ever to be in control. Using PowerStop's Brake Finder, all you need to do is type in your vehicle and a list of brake kits that perfectly fit your vehicle will show up. Choose a kit that matches your driving style, and bam, you've got yourself upgraded brakes at an affordable price. All our brake kits come with everything you need – no extra trips to the parts store needed. Don't want to install them yourself? No worries. Some customers may prefer to DIY install their new brake themselves, but there's an easier way. Just bring the kit to your trusted mechanic, and they can install it for you. You get the confidence of knowing quality parts are on your vehicle, without having to do the dirty work. Now that's smart. Have a Question? PowerStop Can Help PowerStop is dedicated to delivering top-quality performance brakes for every vehicle on the road. If you have a question about any of our products, contact us today online or toll-free at (888) 863-4415. Our customer service team is available to answer your questions Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST). Se habla español. Brake system warning lights are installed for your safety — to alert you when there's an issue with your braking system. There are various reasons why a dashboard brake warning light could be triggered, such as improper wiring, a damaged brake line, or a faulty rear brake light bulb. It's crucial to understand what a specific brake light indicates as it can help you identify any issues with your car. Just like the check engine light or the tire pressure warning light, you shouldn't ignore this signal as it could potentially save you from danger and expensive repairs in the future. Your vehicle's brakes allow you to slow down and stop safely. If you see your brake warning light come on, you should address the problem immediately. While you technically can drive with the brake system warning light on, you should make a point to remedy the situation as quickly as possible. Brakes are the most important safety feature on your vehicle, so you should not drive if your brakes are not working properly. If your brake service warning light is on, it could indicate hydraulic issues, worn brake pads, or a need for parking brake adjustment. Because the brake service warning light could mean different things, it is best to have a brake specialist diagnose the issue. Drive your vehicle as little as possible after the brake system warning light comes on. Contact a brake specialist to diagnose and repair the issue. If you cannot drive the vehicle to a repair shop, you may be able to find a mobile brake repair service that can come to you to identify and fix the problem. The number of dashboard warning lights differs from vehicle to vehicle, depending on the age and model. For example, older and low-end models tend only to have brake and parking brake warning light indicators. Today, however, most cars generally have the following warning lights: Brake Light: If the "Brake" indicator or an encircled exclamation mark illuminates on your dashboard, it could mean that your vehicle's brake fluid level is low. ABS Light: Your vehicle's anti-lock braking system warning light is typically represented by either an encircled "ABS" symbol or text. The engine's computer triggers the ABS warning light, which monitors the ABS system to detect issues ranging from a defective ABS pump to a damaged wheel speed sensor or faulty wiring. Parking Brake Light: On the dashboard, the parking brake warning light usually appears as a circled "P" symbol. It lights up when the parking brake isn't properly released and can also indicate a worn-out parking brake mechanism or a malfunctioning sensor. Brake Pad Wear Indicator Light: Typically represented by a circle inside dotted brackets, the brake pad warning light alerts you when your brake pads are worn out. Any time the parking brake is engaged or not completely disengaged, the parking brake warning light should come on. The parking brake system is often separate from the primary braking system, though it may incorporate components from other brakes in some situations. If the ignition is on and you engage the parking brake, a switch in the parking brake system will activate the warning light. This light reminds you to release the brake before driving. When you disengage the brake, the light should also turn off. If the warning light remains on after you've released the parking brake, it's usually due to either the brake not being fully released or a broken parking brake switch. The ABS warning light alerts you to a problem with your anti-lock brake system. You can drive with the ABS light on, but it is not recommended, because the ABS system helps to control stopping, and it could be very dangerous to drive without it. To get rid of the ABS warning light, you can take it to a brake specialist or try to diagnose and repair the issue yourself. To identify the problem yourself, it is extremely helpful to have an OBD-II (On-Board Diagnostics) reader. An OBD-II reader is a device used to access and retrieve information from a vehicle's diagnostic system. It is plugged into the OBD-II port, which is typically located under the dashboard, near the steering wheel, and it communicates with the vehicle's computer to display information on a screen. OBD-II readers can provide real-time data on a variety of factors, such as engine speed, coolant temperature, fuel system status, and more. They can also retrieve diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs) which are generated when the vehicle's computer detects an issue with a system or component. These codes can help identify the cause of a malfunction or warning light, which can be useful for troubleshooting and repairs. If you do not have an OBD-II reader, examine the following brake elements, one of these issues could be the culprit: Bad ABS module Low brake fluid Faulty speed sensor Bad hydraulic pump Blown fuse The worn brake pad warning symbol can vary depending on the vehicle. The universal symbol for worn brake pads is typically a circle inside dotted brackets. Certain manufacturers may use their own specific symbols or use the generic "exclamation mark inside a triangle" warning light, along with a message in the dashboard instrument display. Check your owner's manual to see which symbol your vehicle displays for worn brake pads. When your brake warning light comes on, it is an indication that something is malfunctioning in your vehicle's braking system. Sometimes you may notice that a brake warning light comes on even when your brakes seem to work fine. This could mean that the issue does not yet noticeably affect your braking. It may also mean that there is a malfunction with certain sensors or the warning system itself. For example, you may see your ABS warning light come on, but your anti-lock braking system is working fine. You may have even brought your vehicle to a mechanic to address the issue, only to be told that your system is in good working order. This could mean that although the braking system's hardware is working well, the culprit could be an ABS wheel-speed sensor on one of the wheels. Back The brake light is mainly shown by a circle with an exclamation point, while in some manufacturers, you would see it blatantly spelling out the word "BRAKE".Back in the day, cars had only a single brake light. It would notify the driver of any problems related to the brake system.Over time, the braking system was equipped with advanced techniques for informing drivers of particular issues. This is reflected in the multiple brake warning lights on the dashboard display. Each of them indicates a problem with a specific part of the system, as shown below:The parking brake, also known as the emergency brake or hand brake, is used for securing your vehicle when parked or stopped. When applied, the "P" symbol illuminates on the dash. However, this light soon goes off once the parking brake is released.But, the parking brake light may sometimes remain on despite releasing the hand brake. This can occur either due to the partial release of the lever or some fault within the system.The low brake fluid level light illuminates when your brake fluid level drops below the threshold. You should check the brake fluid level in the master cylinder and top it off.The worn brake pad light illuminates when the brake pads get too worn and need replacement as soon as possible. In older models that don't have this indicator, the low brake fluid level light may serve as a reminder that it's time to replace the brake pads.No. Once the light illuminates, it indicates an issue with your vehicle's braking system. Ignoring this warning could decrease braking performance, which could be dangerous and increase the crash risk.Therefore, always find a safe place to pull over and follow my guide below. You can also call your breakdown service for assistance.The brake light on your dashboard is a sign that your car's brake system is going through a tough time. From benign to critical, it can illuminate because of several reasons. The most common ones include the following:Most vehicles are equipped with a sensor to detect engaged parking brakes. If the brake is activated even in the slightest, the sensor turns the brake light on to notify you that it is unsafe to drive like this.Simply releasing the brake all the way through is enough to fix this minor issue.Brake fluid is the pressurized liquid within the brake lines that applies pressure on the brake pads and causes the car to slow down.Most modern-day vehicles have a sensor that monitors the level of the brake fluid. In case the level drops below the threshold, the system will trigger the brake light to inform you.The fix is easy: Fill the tank up, and the light will go off.However, refilling the brake fluid is just a temporary solution. Unlike the engine oil, the brake fluid does not burn up within the system. Based on my experience working at the garage, the reason behind it is the leaking in the brake lines. Thus, take your car to an expert to fix fluid leaks. If not taken care of immediately, it can lead to brake failure.Brake pads can wear and thin out over time. This causes the piston in the brake caliper to move outwards, leaving behind a vacant space. Eventually, the reservoir's fluid sweeps into this space, lowering the brake fluid level and causing the indicator light to swit