



## *News Release*

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***  
***From the Bendix Tech Tips Series***

### **BENDIX TECH TIPS: PREPARING WHEEL-ENDS AND AIR DRYERS FOR WINTER**

*Inspection and Preventive Maintenance Can Keep Corrosion at Bay*

**ELYRIA, Ohio – Nov. 1, 2017** – Across North America, it's getting to be that time of year: Temperatures are dropping, and fleets and owner-operators are prepping for chilly conditions and wintry roads. Before things get too harsh out there, the Bendix Tech Tips series from Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC and Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake LLC (BSFB) offers some simple steps to help keep wheel-ends and air dryers operating effectively, and staving off hazardous corrosion of components.

"Winter can be really tough on the components of air-braked systems," said Keith McComsey, BSFB director of marketing and customer solutions. "There's added moisture on the roads in the form of snow and ice, and it's often mixing with salt or corrosive chemicals used to keep highways clear. Conditions are ideal for the kind of corrosion that poses a serious hazard to safe brake operation and highway safety."

It's important to prepare wheel-ends and air dryers for winter with a few steps that can help keep moisture, contaminants, and corrosion from gaining a foothold. For starters, a clean air supply is crucial, regardless of whether the vehicle or trailer is equipped with foundation drum or air disc brakes, so the air tanks should be drained of moisture and the potential contaminants it can carry. Remember that ambient temperature shifts of greater than 30 degrees Fahrenheit can cause a temporary accumulation of moisture, so if a significant

temperature change took place in the previous 24 hours, continue to operate the vehicle as normal, and check the air system again after a week.

### **Drum Brake Checkup**

Winterizing drum brake components begins with a watchful eye: Check the chamber housings for corrosion or damage that could allow corrosive materials to take hold. Excessive corrosion can lead to failure of the housing. Next, verify that the chamber's dust plug is properly installed to prevent contamination of the interior.

Effective lubrication keeps moisture at bay and is a powerful tool in the battle against corrosion. Make sure all automatic slack adjusters are properly greased, and lubricate the clevis pin connection points, verifying that they rotate freely. Ensure that other drum brake components are also lubricated, including cam tubes, shafts, and bushings.

### **Air Disc Brake Care**

As with drum brakes, begin with a visual inspection, checking the chamber housings and dust plug. Next, inspect the guide pins and look for cuts or tears on the boots, replacing them if necessary. (Ripped or punctured boots can allow contaminants and moisture to enter the caliper, causing corrosion and long-term damage.)

Prepping air disc brakes for winter also requires ensuring that:

- Pads move freely in the carrier – if not, remove them and clean the carrier surface with a wire brush
- The brake moves freely on the guidance system – if not, replace the guidance system
- Pads and rotors have enough remaining thickness to last until the next service interval – minimum rotor thickness is 37mm, and minimum friction thickness is 2mm

### **Air Dryer Maintenance**

Especially in cold or harsh climates, fall is a good time to replace air dryer cartridges to prevent moisture from getting into the system and causing air brake freeze-up. If the vehicle has an oil-coalescing cartridge, always replace it with another oil-coalescing cartridge to maintain the quality of the air serving the brakes and other connected systems like automated manual transmissions.

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“We also recommend examining the air dryer’s purge valve for signs of corrosion or an accumulation of grit, and replacing it if necessary,” said Richard Nagel, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions, Charging. “Like a lot of winter preparation, it’s a simple procedure that can go a long way toward keeping a system operating safely, preventing malfunction and headaches down the road.”

Also critical for vehicle operators to keep in mind as cold weather approaches: adding alcohol to unfreeze brake components may solve an immediate problem, but alcohol can damage seals in the air brake system, requiring additional unexpected service. Bendix does not recommend using alcohol in air brake systems under any conditions.

Information in the Bendix Tech Tips series can be found in the Bendix multimedia center at [knowledge-dock.com](http://knowledge-dock.com). Further instructional videos and interactive training on foundation drum brakes and friction are available at the Bendix On-Line Brake School, [www.brake-school.com](http://www.brake-school.com). For more information on wheel-end and air dryer maintenance, contact the Bendix Tech Team at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE.

### **About the Bendix Tech Tips Series**

Bendix, the North American leader in the development and manufacture of leading-edge active safety and braking system technologies, is committed to helping keep commercial vehicles on the road and in good working condition. The Bendix Tech Tips series addresses common commercial vehicle maintenance questions and issues concerning the total range of components found within foundation and air brake systems, as well as advanced safety systems.

### **About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC**

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of the Knorr-Bremse Group, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix® brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 3,200 people, Bendix is driven to deliver solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit [bendix.com](http://bendix.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](http://knowledge-dock.com). Follow Bendix on Twitter at [twitter.com/Bendix\\_CVS](https://twitter.com/Bendix_CVS). Log on and learn from the Bendix experts

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at [brake-school.com](http://brake-school.com). And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit [bendix.com/careers](http://bendix.com/careers).

### **About Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake LLC**

Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake LLC combines and expands the complementary wheel-end foundation brake technologies of two global leaders – Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC and Dana Commercial Vehicle Products, LLC. The joint venture, formed in July 2004, is a single, complete source for OEM brake system design, manufacturing, hardware, and support for all foundation brake components and actuation systems, as well as all-makes coverage of nearly 50,000 medium- and heavy-duty aftermarket parts. Contact us at 1-866-610-9709 or visit [foundationbrakes.com](http://foundationbrakes.com). Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at [knowledge-dock.com](http://knowledge-dock.com). Follow Bendix on Twitter at [twitter.com/Bendix\\_CVS](https://twitter.com/Bendix_CVS). Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at [brake-school.com](http://brake-school.com). And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake, visit [bendix.com/careers](http://bendix.com/careers).

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