

## Product Bulletin

**TO:** All Valued Beck/Arnley Customers **2011-02-PB-AL**

**FROM:** Product Management

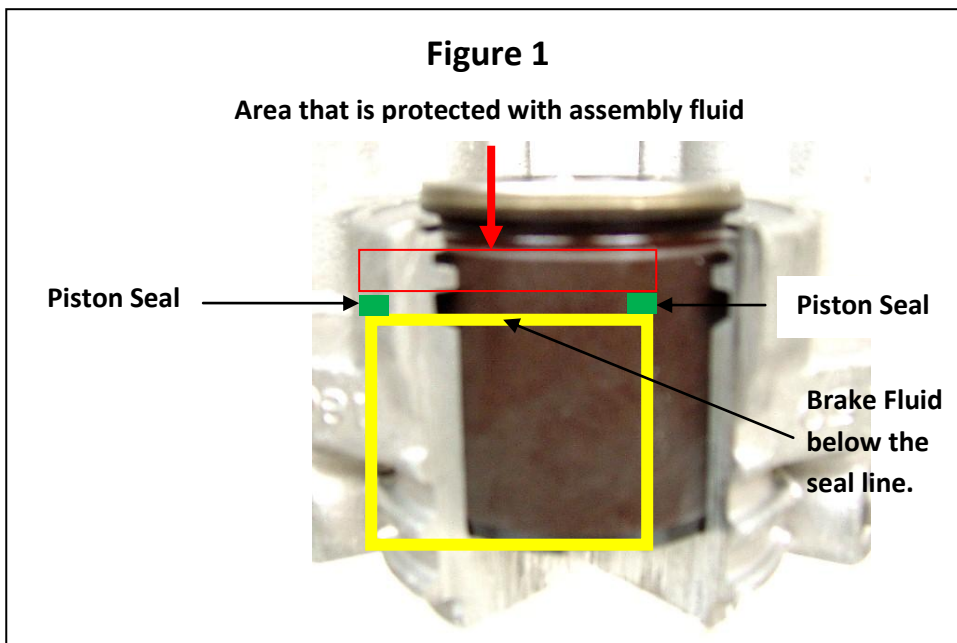
**DATE:** August 2, 2011

**SUBJECT:** When is visible fluid NOT a brake leak?

### When is Visible Fluid NOT a Brake Leak?

Sometimes, visible fluid on or around a brake caliper boot or lever is NOT leaking brake fluid, but may actually be the special assembly fluid used during the assembly process.

During the manufacturing (or remanufacturing) process, all manufacturers use some type of assembly fluid that is compatible with DOT 3 & 4 brake fluids. This assembly fluid serves multiple purposes such as aiding in the safe insertion of the piston past the critical rubber piston seal as well as serving as a rust preventative for the area above the piston seal and below the piston dust boot. This rust preventative function is very important because without proper protection, this area will collect moisture over time and corrode this area (See Fig 1). Once this corrosion begins, it is possible for the corrosion to build up and tighten the clearance for the piston causing the piston to stick.



When you see fluid around a boot or a wet stain on the casting, take a little extra time to determine if the fluid is actually brake fluid or simply assembly fluid. One simple check is to see if there is noticeable brake fluid missing from the master cylinder reservoir. Another check is to feel and smell the fluid. Assembly fluid will feel much more slippery than brake fluid and brake fluid will have a distinct smell. Performing this simple check will save you time and money. If the suspect fluid is simply assembly fluid you can proceed with the brake job instead of having to return and wait for a replacement caliper.