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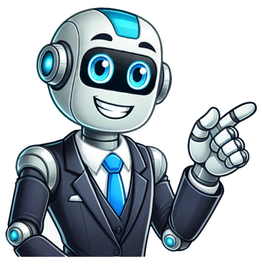

Most car drivers assume that parts such as the engine, the transmission, and other larger components are the most important. However, smaller parts such as wheel hubs are critical because your car can't move forward without them. But what exactly are wheel hubs? Here's all you need to know. What Are Wheel Hubs? Wheel hubs are located at the center of the wheel, specifically between the brake drums and the drive axle. They are found on each wheel, and their role is to connect your wheel to the rest of the vehicle. Wheel hubs are the mounting assembly that includes the bearings, sensors, seals, and the wheel hub unit. Read on for more information about wheel hubs, how they function, the different types available, their importance, and how to identify damaged wheel hubs! What Do Wheel Hubs Do? Car drivers raise a lot of questions about wheel hubs and bearings because the two are usually interconnected and function together. Wheel hubs are the larger part that holds together the bearings, sensors, seals, and the entire unit and connect the wheel to the rest of the car. Without the wheel hub assembly, the car can't move from one place to the next. Also known as the wheel hub bearing, wheel hub unit, or hub assembly hub, it's a critical part of the steering system because it contributes to the safe handling and steering of the vehicle. As the axle and bearing mechanism, the wheel hub enables your vehicle to turn freely and makes handling much easier. To perform their role effectively, wheel hubs are located at the center of the vehicle's wheel, enabling the rest of the components to function correctly. You'll find them on each wheel between the drive axle and brake drums. While on the drive axle side, the hub assembly is attached to the steering knuckle, on the side of the brake, the wheel is mounted to the bolts of the wheel hub assembly. Read More: Why Do People Put Tires on Their Roof? (+ Other Common FAQs)Your car needs to have a properly functioning wheel hub for it to roll smoothly; otherwise, you'll just encounter problems when driving. Apart from enabling your wheels to steer, wheel hubs are vital for your traction control system (TCS) and anti-lock braking system (ABS). This is because the hub unit contains wheel speed sensors that control the ABS braking system. These sensors communicate with the ABS on how fast each wheel turns to determine whether anti-lock braking is required. Your TSC and ABS systems work together to control your car; therefore, if the sensors in the wheel hub fail, it can compromise your vehicle's performance and safety. How Long Do Wheel Hubs Last? Like other automotive components, wheel hubs last according to their use, quality, and driving conditions. Wheel hub assemblies are meant to last for up to 100,000 miles; however, some of them don't hit this milestone due to different factors that compromise their functionality. If you mostly drive your car or rough roads, potholes, or over speed bumps, they are more likely to be worn out and get damaged than those driven on smooth highway roads. As soon as you notice that your wheel hubs are damaged or worn out, you need to take your car to the mechanic for repairs to avoid getting into road accidents. According to some drivers, they replaced their wheel hubs after 150,000 to 160,000 miles. This shows that the hubs can go much further if they are properly taken care of. When Should You Replace The Wheel Hubs? Similar to other car components, wheel hubs should be replaced as soon as you notice signs of damage. You can replace both of them if they have covered the same mileage during replacement because the damage might be the same. Even though this might be expensive, it's better than waiting for the damage to worsen. Your wheel hubs will be worn out depending on how you use them; therefore, it's better to take care of them and replace them as soon as you notice a problem. Read More: What Are V-Rated Tires? (Are They Worth It, Benefits + More)What Are The Symptoms Of A Bad Wheel Hub? A failing wheel hub can be detected by looking for some signs and how your car behaves in different situations. Let's take a look at some of them. Unusual Noise Tires are generally quieter these days, thanks to noise reduction technologies; therefore, if you notice that your drives are becoming noisier, you should check your wheel hub. Some of the most common noises can be humming, growling, crackling, grinding, snapping, or strange rumbling. All these are signs that there could be something wrong with your hub unit. ABS Failure As we've established, the ABS functionality is interconnected with the wheel hub because the hub assembly holds the sensors. Once the ABS sensors are damaged, your ABS light will light up on the dashboard to indicate a problem. Uneven Tire Wear While there are many causes of uneven tire wear, failing wheel hubs could be one of them. When your wheel hubs are not performing well, your tires will also be affected because they are not rolling smoothly, leading to tread wear. Loose Steering Wheel You need a stable steering wheel for your car to move. When the hub is damaged, it can also affect the bearings, and your steering wheel will start feeling loose. Abnormal Pull To The Side If your car is drifting to one side more than the other, you need to have the wheel hubs checked. Although this issue could result from other problems, it's good to rule out the hubs. Uneven Brake Pad Wear Just like tires, brake pads also get affected significantly when the wheel hubs have worn out. It would be best if you had that checked immediately it starts happening. What Causes Wheel Hub Failure? Your wheel hubs will malfunction if you drive on rough roads with many potholes and curbs that physically damage the tire. When your wheels get contaminated with moisture and dirt, it leads to corrosion, damaging the hub unit. Read More: Spare Tire Vs. Donut (Differences + Which One Is Best)Additionally, if your wheels were not aligned and balanced properly, you are more likely to experience this malfunction. Therefore, you should ensure that your tires are serviced by qualified professionals. Can You Drive With Damaged Wheel Hubs? Driving with a damaged wheel hub assembly is actually dangerous because the parts on the unit, such as bearings, could come off when driving and cause the wheel to come off. Additionally, it affects how the wheel turns, and your vehicle becomes shaky when the wheels are not secure. Once the wheel hub assembly disintegrates, the tire parts will fracture, and the wheel will come off. Therefore, take the vehicle to your mechanic for service and repairs if you notice the damage signs. How Much Does It Cost To Replace Wheel Hubs? Replacing wheel hubs will be cheap or expensive depending on your car model, your source, and the brand you buy. When replacing them, the cost of a wheel hub assembly can be as low as $60 up to hundreds of dollars. Additionally, the overall cost depends on whether you need to replace both hubs. Furthermore, you need to factor in labor costs at the tire shop, which vary from place to place. Therefore, you need to consider all these factors before replacing them. To find out more about wheels, you can also read our posts on what is a tire alignment, what is a tire deflator, and what is a tire rotation. Summary Wheel hubs are an essential part of the vehicle. Located at the center of the wheel, they are found on each wheel, and they connect your wheel to the rest of the vehicle. As the mounting assembly, the wheel hub unit includes bearings, sensors, and seals. Without this unit, the wheel can't run smoothly. Wheel hubs are also prone to damage; therefore, you should have them checked as soon as you notice any problems. Best Wiper BladesBest Car WaxBest Portable Jump StartersBest Portable Tire InflatorsBest Ceramic CoatingBest Car Wash KitsBest Snow Brushes and Ice ScrapersBest Car Floor MatsBest Steering Wheel CoversBest Car VacuumsBest Car Seat CoversBest Car CoversBest Jacks For TrucksBest Car Air FreshenersBest Spark PlugsBest Backup CamerasBest Aftermarket RadiosBest Truck Bed CampersBest Aftermarket WheelsBest Aftermarket HeadlightsBest Truck Bed Tonneau Covers No, it is not advisable to drive with a bad wheel bearing. Driving with a failing wheel bearing can lead to serious consequences, including the possibility of a wheel locking up or even detaching while you are driving. This presents a significant safety hazard to you and other motorists. It is best to address the issue with a bad wheel bearing promptly to maintain vehicle safety and performance. Recognising the signs of a bad wheel bearing can help you take timely action to prevent larger issues. Common indicators include: Unusual Noises: A humming, rumbling, or growling noise that increases with acceleration or as the vehicle turns. Wheel Wobble: Excessive play or vibration in the wheel, which you may feel through the steering wheel, especially as vehicle speed increases. Uneven Tyre Wear: Uneven or rapid wear of your tyres can be caused by failed wheel bearings. ABS Failure: In some vehicles, a bad wheel bearing can interfere with the anti-lock braking system (ABS). If you notice any of these symptoms, have your vehicle checked by a professional to prevent further damage. The cost to replace a wheel bearing can vary widely depending on the make and model of your vehicle and the labour costs of your mechanic or dealership. On average, you can expect to pay anywhere between £120 to £600 for each wheel bearing replacement. This price includes both parts and labour. Front-wheel bearings typically cost a bit more to replace than rear ones. To get a more accurate estimate, it's best to consult with a repair shop or your dealership. A bad wheel bearing typically makes a distinct noise that is a tell-tale sign something might be wrong. Most commonly, the noise is a grinding, humming, or rumbling sound that becomes more pronounced with vehicle speed or as the vehicle turns. This noise may initially be subtle but can grow louder over time as the bearing deteriorates further. If you hear this type of noise, it's a clear indication that you should have your wheel bearings inspected by a professional. Suggested AutoZone Products Shop Now Wheel bearings allow the wheels to spin freely while supporting the vehicle's weight. These small yet durable parts are located inside the wheel hub and contain tightly packed steel balls or rollers encased in a metal ring. Some wheel bearings are replaceable individually, but most modern vehicles use wheel hub assemblies instead for some or all of their wheel bearings. No matter the style, by reducing friction, they enable smooth wheel rotation and ensure stable handling. Failing wheel bearings can compromise your safety and lead to expensive repairs if they're not replaced right away. Look out for these warning signs: Grinding or humming noise – A loud, rhythmic sound coming from the wheels, especially during turns, often indicates a damaged bearing. Vibrations or wobbling – Excessive play in the wheels can cause steering wheel vibrations or a shaky ride. Uneven tire wear – Damaged wheel bearings can lead to improper wheel alignment, resulting in irregular tire wear. ABS warning light – A faulty wheel bearing can trigger the anti-lock braking system (ABS) warning light. If you notice any of these symptoms, it's time to check your wheel bearings and determine if one or more of them needs replacement. Several factors can affect the change wheel bearing cost, ranging from your vehicle type to labor and parts quality. The type of vehicle you own plays a significant role in the replacing a wheel bearing cost. Larger vehicles, such as trucks and SUVs, often have hardier and more expensive wheel bearings compared to compact cars. Luxury or high-performance vehicles may also require precision parts, increasing the overall cost. Wheel bearings come in various grades, from budget-friendly aftermarket options to premium OEM parts. While cheaper options may save you money upfront, higher-quality parts often last longer and provide better performance. Labor is another significant factor in the fixing wheel bearing cost. Depending on your location and the job's complexity, labor costs can range from $100 to $300 or more. Front wheel bearings are often easier to replace than rear wheel bearings that might have more disassembly required. The cost to replace front wheel bearings is generally lower than that for rear wheel bearings because the rear suspension system tends to be more complex. On average, replacing a front wheel bearing costs between $150 and $300 per wheel, including labor If you have a hub-style bearing instead of individual bearing assemblies, it could be about $100 to $200 higher. Rear wheel bearings, particularly on vehicles with sealed hubs, may range from $200 to $500 per wheel. For a typical car, the wheel bearing replacement price at a professional shop averages between $250 and $500 per wheel. Luxury vehicles and exotic or specialty models could be more than $700 due to higher part and labor costs. If you're a DIYer with the necessary tools, replacing wheel bearings yourself can save you significant money. The cost of parts typically ranges from $50 to $250 per bearing, depending on quality and brand. There are instances where parts will be significantly higher, though, so always shop according to your make and model. Replacing wheel bearings requires a good selection of tools, including: Bearing puller or slide hammer While a DIY approach can reduce the cost, it requires time, effort, and some mechanical prowess. If you're not sure you're ready to do the job, play it safe and have a professional do it for you. Taking care of your wheel bearings can help you avoid premature replacement and costly repairs. Check for signs of wear and looseness during routine maintenance, especially if you frequently drive on rough roads. Dirt and moisture can cause corrosion and reduce bearing lifespan, so ensure they are properly sealed. Some older vehicles or heavy-duty trucks may require lubrication from time to time. As well, you can help keep your wheel bearings in good condition with how you drive. Excessive weight can strain the bearings and lead to early failure, so keep within your vehicle's limits for hauling and towing. Address grinding noises or vibrations at the first sign to prevent further damage. And, avoid the lowest-cost parts. Cheap bearings may wear out quickly, costing more in the long run. When you're replacing a wheel bearing, AutoZone has what you're after. You'll always find the right parts for the job as well as the tools you need to get the job done right the first time. If the job is too big for you, look through our list of Preferred Shops in your area that can help you complete the job! How much does it cost to replace a wheel bearing on average? On average, replacing a wheel bearing costs between $250 and $600 per wheel, including parts and labor. Can I drive with a bad wheel bearing? Driving with a bad wheel bearing is unsafe and can damage your suspension or wheel hub if left unchecked. How long does it take to replace a wheel bearing? Replacing a wheel bearing typically takes one to two hours per wheel, depending on the vehicle and your experience. What happens if you don't replace a bad wheel bearing? Failing to replace a bad wheel bearing can lead to severe damage, including the wheel separating from the car. Is it cheaper to replace wheel bearings yourself? Replacing wheel bearings yourself can save on labor costs, but it requires the right tools and knowledge. Each wheel has its own bearing that can wear out independently. For that reason, you won't necessarily have to replace all of your wheel bearings if only one is worn out (despite what some mechanics may tell you).Keep reading to learn the most common symptoms of a faulty wheel bearing and understand the replacement costs associated with wheel bearings, whether front or rear.See Also: 4 Signs of a Spun BearingTop 5 Bad Wheel Bearing SymptomsTo determine the condition of your wheel bearings, there are 5 common signs you can look out for.#1 – Uneven Tire WearWhen wheel bearings wear out, they tend to wear out unevenly from the rest of them. This will cause the corresponding tire to have abnormal tire wear compared to the others.In a normal situation where your tires wear out, they would all be evenly worn out from simply driving on them. So if they are unevenly worn out, it could very well be to a bad wheel bearing.Of course, other issues such as a bad wheel alignment, unbalanced tires, and others could also be causes of uneven tire wear so don't assume it's the wheel bearings unless other symptoms match up.#2 – Grinding NoiseA common symptom of bad wheel bearings is when your tires have a loud grinding noise coming from them. This is caused when the wheel bearings lose their lubricity and build up a lot of heat inside of them instead.It will almost be like hearing two pieces of metal grinding together. Usually, you'll only hear the sound coming from one wheel rather than all of them because of how the wheels wear out unevenly. The noise is most noticeable while shifting or turning.#3 – Steering Wheel VibratesIf the problem gets really bad then your steering wheel will start to vibrate. You'll notice this vibration when you drive at slower speeds but the problem will get worse as you step on the gas pedal and accelerate the vehicle.A lot of people think this symptom has to do with unbalanced tires on their vehicle. While the symptoms of both are similar, vibrations from an unevenly balanced tires occur at high speeds.But in any case, you should take your vehicle to a mechanic and have them officially diagnose the problem.#4 – Vehicle Pulls to One SideWhen a wheel bearing is worn and becomes corroded or pitted, the smooth lining which bearings require is no longer there and the rough surface causes vibration to that tire. This vibration may cause your vehicle to slightly pull to the side of the worn bearing.You may also experience your car pulling to the side when applying your brakes. While this is a typical symptom of bad brake rotors or calipers, the actual cause may be the wheel bearings themselves because of the excessive amount of runout which they cause.#5 – Excess Wobble or Play in WheelsThis one is a bit trickier to diagnose since you need to have your car on a hydraulic lift or both wheels of an axle up on jack stands. When lifted, grab one of the wheels and try rocking it back and forth and notice how much "play" or movement the wheel has. Now repeat this on the wheel at the other end of the axle.If the wheel wobbles or moves back and forth when you rock it, you likely have bad wheel bearings. Good wheel bearings mean the wheel has almost no wobble or excess play.See Also: Wheel Spacers (Pros and Cons)Average Cost to Replace Wheel BearingsFront Wheel BearingsBoth SidesFront wheel bearings are built into the steering knuckle arm assembly and connected to drive axle components of your vehicle. These bearings are made to last for many years without needing to be replaced. The cost to replace both front wheel bearings is going to be between $260 and $480.The parts alone for the front wheel bearings are about $120 to $200. However, the labor costs will be a bit more extensive at around $140 to $280. The exact cost will depend on the prices of your local repair shop and the make and model of your vehicle. For large trucks, sports cars, and luxury cars, expect to pay more.One SideNow if you are just replacing the wheel bearing in one of your front wheels, these costs will pretty much be split in half. For the total cost, on average, expect to pay around $130 to $220. The parts will cost between $60 and $100, and the labor will cost between $70 and $140. Rear Wheel BearingsBoth SidesAs for the rear wheel bearings, they will be a tad cheaper to replace but this will of course depend on the car make and model. The cost of a complete rear wheel bearing replacement will be somewhere in area of $240 to $460.Parts will on average be between $100 and $180. The labor costs will be around $140 to $280.One SideIf you are just going to replace one of the rear wheel bearings then it will be about $120 to $240 for the complete job. $50 to $90 for the parts and $70 to $140 for the labor.Again, these are all only estimates but they are a good indicator of what you can expect to pay. The good news is that wheel bearings take a lot of time to wear out so you won't have to replace them very often.Rear Hub BearingsSome vehicles use a rear hub bearing assembly where the wheel bearings are prepacked in the hub and installed as a complete unit. Instead of simply replacing the wheel bearings, the entire hub assembly must be replaced.This of course makes the hub assembly more expensive than just the hub bearings. Expect to pay on average between $400 to $800 to replace hub assemblies on both sides of the axle. The cost of parts can vary quite a bit depending on how advanced the assembly is but the labor is usually slightly less than a typical rear bearing replacement.Common Types of Wheel BearingsFriction is created when a wheel is turned. There is more resistance when the wheel has a heavy bearing. That is why "wheel bearing" refers to the component which is responsible for reducing the friction that exists between parts while the wheel is spinning.When the wheel's moving parts have less resistance between them, it reduces the wear and erosion that forms. As a result, the wheel's lifespan is prolonged.There are different types of wheel bearings that a manufacturer can use. Here are some common types along with their main purpose.Ball BearingsOut of all the wheel bearings out there, ball bearings are the most common and most versatile wheel bearings that can be used. They are able to absorb thrust loads and radial loads.Cornering pressure is the thrust load and the weight amount placed on the wheel is the radial load. You will find ball bearings in wheels of all sizes, from roller skate wheels to automobile wheels.Precision Ball BearingsThe design of precision ball bearings makes them suitable for high performance usage. Precision ball bearings have the ability to minimize friction which in turn reduces the amount of heat created.The speed of their rotation is generally higher than regular bearings. For all these reasons, the landing wheels of an airplane and various racing cars have precision ball bearings in them. These bearings are designed specifically for extensive thrust and radial loads.Roller BearingsRoller bearings are a type of wheel bearings that are used commonly. The only thing is that roller bearings are not as versatile as ball bearings. Roller bearings are good at handling weight but they're not the greatest for cornering.If you're using wheels which must corner at medium to high levels of speed, then roller bearings won't be suitable for them. But if you're using vehicles like grocery carts or hand trucks, then roller bearings will be fine for them.Tapered Roller BearingsThe regular wheels of cars and trucks will usually have tapered roller bearings in them. They have a cone shape which cuts down the friction while cornering as the thrust load is high.As you turn the car, there are various degrees to the angle of the wheels. With tapered roller bearings, they prevent grinding in the parts that are shifting. Compare wheel bearing repair costs and get your car fixed at a trusted garage nearbyRepairing your car has never been easier1. Enter your postcode | 2. Compare prices & approved garages | 3. Book your wheel bearing replacement onlineExplore our network of trusted garages and specialists for wheel bearing replacementGain access to our trusted independent garage network in the UKThe wheel bearing is an important part of wheel assembly, connecting the wheel to its axle. When wheel bearings wear, they make a rumbling noise that worsens until the bearing fails. That's why it's really important to get it changed when it does get damaged, as its role is to ensure the wheel is able to rotate smoothly and with minimum friction, keeping you on the road safely.If your wheel bearings are making a noise, or you feel your car vibrate at speed, then it's time to get them changed because they can affect alignment and steering. Whatever the problem is with your wheel bearings, FixMyCar's wheel bearing fitting specialist garages can provide you with a quote for replacement.How much does it cost to change a wheel bearing?Compare wheel bearing replacement costs from garages near you. We found on average, when you book your wheel bearing replacement with FixMyCar, prices vary but an average figure is of around £257.63.The cost of changing your wheel bearing can vary depending on your car due to differences in labour time and parts needed. Take a look below at the average quote on FixMyCar for some of the top car makes.Top warning signs that your wheel bearing needs to be replacedBesides normal wear and tear, hitting curbs with your tyres or driving over potholes can all be held responsible for damaging the wheel bearings. When it's time to get your wheel bearings changed you will notice a number of warning signs, such as:Grinding, humming or grunting noises coming from the tyre of your car or the wheel. This noise can often increase when you accelerate your car or if you take sharper turns. When your car feels loose when driving it, or, when your steering seems less responsive to turns and feels less precise than normal. Your steering wheel might start to vibrate when you change speed or take turns.Uneven tyre tread or wear ABS malfunctioningIf your bearing has seized, then the wheel will not move at allThe average price of an alloy wheel bearing replacement booked on FixMyCar is £257.63.Over time, your wheel bearings can become worn. If you hear any unusual noises coming from your wheels, they're likely damaged. To keep your wheels moving smoothly and safely, you may need to get your wheel bearings replaced.Wheel inspection and testingBearing replacement on 1-4 wheelsGet quotesThe average price of a wheel alignment on FixMyCar is £43.28.If you want the full package of wheel alignment, then this is the service for you. Wheel alignment is needed for stability and to ensure the four wheels of your car are tracking straight. If your vehicle veers to the left or right whilst driving or your tyre treads are wearing unevenly, your car may need a wheel alignment.Steering and suspension diagnosticComputer assessmentSteering and suspension adjustmentsGet quotesThe average price of a mobile mechanic booked on FixMyCar is £81.64.A mobile mechanic will visit you at your home or workplace and can carry out a range of repairs.Home visitServicingTyre changeOil changeRecommended repairsCompare quotesWheel bearings have an average lifespan of 85,000 to 100,000 miles. This is only a rule of thumb though, the actual lifespan of a wheel bearing depends on the quality of the wheel bearing and the operating conditionsIf something is wrong with the wheel bearing, then you cannot get the wheel bearing repaired or refurbished. The whole assembly will need to be replaced by a mechanic.A front or rear wheel bearing replacement isn't a time intensive job for a garage, but with that said, it is still fairly complex and can take more time when parts need to be removed to gain access to your wheel bearing. Garages will have the specialist equipment and training to do the job safely, and therefore wheel bearing replacement should only be carried out by a professional mechanic.Why is replacing your wheel bearings necessary?Yes, wheel bearings are a vital part of your car, and should you leave them in a bad condition, it can affect other car parts and ultimately be very dangerous too. Complete failure of the wheel bearing can result in the wheel seizing up entirely, making your car undriveable. It is uncommon for the wheel bearings to fail straight away after noticing the first few symptoms related to wheel bearing failure. However, it's better to avoid driving with worn wheel bearings because we have covered it's a vital part of kit for your car, and can result in dire consequences for your drive-axle and steering assembly. Find local wheel bearing fitting specialists and garagesLooking for specialists near you to change your wheel bearings? You will find the best wheel bearing fitting mechanics and garages in your area below.We work with a network of over 15,000 mechanics and garages across the UK so we can find competitive wheel bearing replacement costs for you. Simply insert your postcode to compare the quotes and read reviews from previous customers to find the wheel bearing replacement costs and deals before booking the local garage online.The car's wheel bearings are a series of steel balls secured together on a metal ring called a race. Each wheel of your car has a wheel bearing, which supports the weight of your car. Its function is to let your wheels move and turn with as little friction as possible.They are used on a variety of other automobiles from cars, airplanes and bikes. In cars, the wheel bearing rides on a metal axle shaft and fits securely inside the wheel hub.What causes the wheel bearings to fail?Some common reasons that cause the wheel bearings to go bad are:Faulty installationImpact damage or poor road qualityPoor quality wheel bearingDriving through deep water or mudCar modifications, such as fitting larger or wider rims, tyres with lower thread walls, stiffer shock absorbers and suspension springs cause higher loads on the wheel bearing and hasted wearWhat are the common signs that my wheel bearings need to be replaced?Signs that your wheel bearing needs repair or replacing:Car feels loose when steering, a loss of control is feltFeels like car is pulling to one sideTyres are unevenly wornAn unusual grinding or grating noise which worsens as you accelerate – be cautious as it can sound similar to damaged tyresA humming noise can point to a number of components, but it may be your wheel bearingsA noise has often been compared to flipping a deck of cards against a bicycle spoke.A rumbling noise is a sign that the wheel bearing seal is damagedClicking noise when turningVibrations at low speedsWheel wobbles in your hands as you turn itUneven brake pad wearUneven tyre wear and overall wear occurring faster than normalCan I drive with faulty wheel bearings?No, you should never drive with faulty wheel bearings. We would always recommend replacing a wheel bearing that is showing signs of wear as soon as possible because a worn bearing could fail at any time.How long do wheel bearings last?Wheel bearings have an average lifespan of approximately 85,000 to 100,000 miles. This is only guidance though, and not the case for every car. The true lifespan will depend on the quality of the wheel bearing part, and also, the driving conditions that the car goes through. Is diagnosing and replacing the wheel bearing problem part of warranty?Wheel bearings are classes as a wear and time item, and as such aren't covered under most factory warranties.Are wheel bearing replacements covered by insurance?Wheel bearing replacement is not covered by insurance in most cases, unless the part needs replacing as part of a collision or accident. How much does wheel bearing cost?Our data suggests that the wheel bearing replacement costs around £257.63 on common makes and models.Get an instant Wheel Bearing Replacement quote - it takes less than 1 minuteGet quotes Last Updated on May 11, 2023 by themechanic Any mechanical object with wheels moving on the ground will have wheel bearings attached. It doesn't matter if you have a bicycle or automobile because they all contain wheel bearings. These bearings could be any shape or size too. It all depends on the make and model of your car or bicycle. Of course, when we're talking about cars, the wheel bearings have a much more challenging job. They must eliminate the friction of the moving wheels so they can continue running smoothly. After a while, the wheel bearings will start to wear out from doing this job so much. They may also get slowly damaged from all the driving conditions you've subjected them to. Whatever the case, bad wheel bearings will slow your car down. If the problem gets worse, your vehicle may not move at all. You'll know when this will happen because your vehicle will have a lot of shakiness and noise. The only way to remedy this problem is to replace the bad wheel bearings. There are two sets of wheel bearings; front wheel bearings and rear wheel bearings. You'll know when you have bad wheel bearings which need to be replaced. The symptoms will be more than obvious. The big question is, how much does replace a front wheel bearing or a rear wheel bearing cost? We will go over that now. Front Wheel Bearing Replacement Cost The price of the front wheel bearing part is anywhere from $80 to $150 on each side. But the more considerable expense will be the labor costs for hiring a mechanic to replace your current front wheel bearing for you. This will be anywhere from $100 to $150. So, you're looking at a total of $180 to $300 to replace one side front wheel bearing. Don't forget that you have at least two wheel bearings in the front of your vehicle. If both have suffered damage or worn out together, these replacement costs will likely double. Remember, this cost depends on the type, model, and brand of a car. Rear Wheel Bearing Replacement Cost The price of the rear wheel bearing part is anywhere from $50 to $80 on each side. The labor costs are between $80 and $120, which means you'll be paying more for the labor. In total, your cost to replace the rear wheel bearing will be about $130 to $200. As you can see, replacing the rear wheel bearings is a bit cheaper than the front wheel bearings. But again, both sets of bearings may have suffered the same damage or wear and tear. So, be prepared to pay a lot more to replace multiple wheel bearings. Rear Hub Bearing Replacement Cost Some types of a car, they are using hub bearings on the rear side. The price of hub bearings is a bit more pricey than standard wheel bearings. Why is this type of this bearing more pricey? Because this bearing comes with an assembly with an ABS sensor and hub. The average price for the part is around $200 to $300 on each side. And the cost of labor is a bit cheap because installing this part is more accessible than standard wheel bearings. The average labor cost is around $50 to $80 on each side. Read also: Tips on Choosing Wheel Bearings If cost is indeed a concern of yours, please remember that there is more than one type of wheel bearing on the market. There are at least 4 types of wheel bearings that you can choose for your vehicle. Some bearings are more expensive, but you get what you pay for. If quality matters to you the most, you will be willing to pay more for results. Your choices are precision ball bearings and tapered roller bearings. The best choice from this list is the precision ball bearings. They're designed to sustain high-pressure driving conditions while providing high-performance use. Friction, noise, and heat are reduced while the rotation speed increases. However, most people use roller bearings or ball bearings for their wheels. Ball bearings can be used on almost any wheel, whether on roller skates or cars. They're also very affordable too. Automotive part Common wheel hub assembly A wheel hub assembly (WHA), also referred to as hub assembly, wheel hub unit, wheel hub bearing, is an automotive part used in most cars, passenger vehicles, and light and heavy trucks.[citation needed] The hub assembly is located between the brake drums or discs and the drive axle. A wheel is bolted on it. Depending on the construction, the end of the hub comes equipped with the splined teeth. They mate the teeth on the axle shaft. The axle hub spins along with the wheels bolted to it and provide power to the wheels in order to rotate. A roller bearing between the axle hub and axle shaft ensures easy rotation of the non-drive wheels. On the axle side, it is mounted to the holding bracket from the chassis; on the disc side, the wheel is mounted to the bolts of the WHA. When replacing, a wheel hub assembly should be torqued to the vehicle's specifications to prevent failure.[1] Wheel hub bearing are used at least since the 1930s when SKF designed a unit used on the Citroën Traction Avant car.[2] As of 2019 at least 90 million vehicles use SKF wheel hub bearings.[2] Locking hubs ^ primechoiceautoparts.com, hub bearing assembly ^ a b "SKF". Archived from the original on 2019-10-11. Retrieved from " Wheel bearings are important components of a car's suspension system. They allow the wheels to rotate smoothly and with little friction. Wheel bearings typically last around 80,000 miles, but they can start to wear down sooner if the car is driven in harsh conditions or if the suspension is not maintained and serviced as needed. If a wheel bearing starts to fail, it will make a grinding or growling noise while the vehicle is in motion. This noise will usually get louder as the bearing wears down. In some cases, the noise can be similar to that of brakes grinding. Once a wheel bearing fails, it must be replaced as soon as possible to avoid further damage to the suspension system. How much does it cost to replace a wheel bearing? The average cost of replacing a wheel bearing is £175, with prices ranging from £120 and £300. The cost will vary depending on whether the front or rear or if all of the wheel bearings need replacing. In some cases, if the faulty wheel bearings have caused additional damage to other parts of the suspension or transmission, then the necessary parts will need to be replaced which could affect the overall cost of the repair. The exact price of the wheel bearing replacement depends largely on your car and the parts recommended by the manufacturer. Your location can also be a key factor in determining the price of a wheel bearing replacement. For example, average hourly labour rates and demand in cities like London is around £50-£100 while in towns with lower demand, the labour rates can range from £35-£50. The type of mechanic, for example, a mobile mechanic vs a dealership garage technician can also affect the total cost of a wheel bearing replacement. Average cost of a wheel bearing replacement by location LocationAverage CostBirmingham£248Bristol£276Glasgow£268Leeds£230Liverpool£256London£256Manchester£238Newcastle£276Sheffield£206 To avoid having car owners overpaying and get a fair price for a wheel bearing replacement, we use real-time data of thousands of car makes and model data, local labour prices for wheel bearing repairs and replacements and part prices to provide an instant fair quote. Simply enter your vehicle registration number and postcode to get an instant price for a wheel bearing replacement for your car. Average cost of a wheel bearing replacement by manufacturer Car MakeAverage CostAudi£252BMW£285Citroen£291Ford£216Honda£249Hyundai£195Kia£213Land Rover£267Mercedes-Benz£282Nissan£243Peugeot£280Renault£238Toyota£293Vauxhall£228Volkswagen£227 Signs your wheel bearing needs to be replaced Rumbling or grinding noise from underneath car Vibrations felt in steering wheel Uneven tyre wear Humming noise at higher speeds Unstable steering ABS warning light on Wobbly wheels A noise coming from the wheel area If you hear a grinding or growling noise coming from the wheels, these are signs that your wheel bearings need to be replaced. A feeling of looseness in the steering. Your steering seems less responsive or precise when you drive it - it could indicate an issue with the wheel bearings. Uneven tyre wear. Along with accelerated tyre wear, bad wheel bearings can also cause uneven tyre wear. A vibrating feeling in the steering wheel or seat. More noticeable at low speeds, a broken wheel bearing will cause vibrations which are typically coupled with a grinding sound. Frequently asked questions about wheel bearing replacement cost Is it worth replacing wheel bearings? Replacing wheel bearings is definitely worth it to extend the life of your tyres and other suspension components. You can replace all 4 bearings or just the one if needed. Can you drive with a damaged wheel bearing? It is recommended that you do not drive with a damaged wheel bearing. Continuing to drive is not only extremely dangerous but can also cause extensive damage to the hub, axle and other associated parts. What happens when a wheel bearing goes out? If a wheel bearing becomes faulty, it will usually make a grinding noise that will become louder as the vehicle moves faster. The vehicle may also feel like it is shaking, the noise may also vary in pitch as you turn the steering and travel around corners. When you notice any of these symptoms, it's important to get it inspected as soon as possible as continuing to drive can be dangerous and cause further damage to the vehicle. Should I replace all 4 wheel bearings? The best practice is to replace all four wheel bearings at the same time or at the very least should be replaced in pairs, ie front or rear. This ensures that all four bearings are the same age and have been through the same amount of wear and tear. Additionally, if one wheel bearing needs to be replaced, the other three are likely to need replacement fairly soon. You can, of course, choose to replace one at a time but it's not advisable and is often not the most economical choice in the long run. How long does a wheel bearing replacement take? A front wheel bearing replacement on average takes just over 1 hour, but can take anywhere from under 1 hour to 2 hours. This is because replacing front wheel bearings tends to be a bit more time-consuming than replacing rear wheel bearings as it may require removal and reassembly of additional car parts. A rear wheel bearing replacement takes on average under 1 hour but can range from under 1 hour to 2 hours. Ultimately, the time that the job will take will depend on a number of factors, like your vehicle's make and model, year, as well as other factors. Select your car at the top of this page for information on job time and cost for your vehicle through ClickMechanic. Can I carry out a wheel bearing replacement myself? A wheel bearing replacement is a complex job that requires automotive repair skills and specialised tools as it involves working with a vehicle's suspension, braking, and steering components. Unless you are a qualified mechanic with the required skills, training and equipment to do the job, we strongly recommend a wheel bearing replacement is only carried out by a professional mechanic. ClickMechanic can help get you a vetted and local mechanic to carry out the work. Just enter your postcode and your car's registration number at the top of this page and select the work needed to get an instant fixed price up front. What else could be the problem if my wheel bearing isn't broken? Unbalanced or misaligned tyres - imbalanced wheels or unevenly worn and improperly mounted tyres can resemble wheel bearing issues Suspension components - faults with the control arms, ball joints, struts, or bushings can lead to similar symptoms, including vibrations Malfunctioning braking system - warped brake discs for example can cause vibrations Power steering - malfunctioning power steering can lead to vehicle handling issues What happens during a wheel bearing replacement? Over time, a damaged wheel bearing can affect your car's steering, as the weight of the bearings, or any defects in the race can cause your wheels to not sit level with the road. This can lead to uneven and premature tyre wear, and your car behaving unpredictably when turning corners. Once the problem has been diagnosed, a wheel bearing replacement should be carried out as soon as possible. * Mechanic will loosen the lug nuts of the wheel where the bearing has been affected and remove the wheel * Mechanic will remove the brake disc and caliper if needed * Mechanic will remove the hub nut holding the wheel bearings assembly * Mechanic will press out old/ damaged bearing * Area will be inspected, cleaned and new wheel bearing will be installed * Mechanic will reinstall all parts as required Page 2 Check out the ClickMechanic price for a Saab 9-3 Rear wheel bearing (one) replacement in the UK.You can book online and the mobile mechanics on our network will come and do the work on your doorstep, one way to make your life a little easier! Save 28% ClickMechanic? £169 & The Mechanic Comes to You 1-37 of 37 results for Saab 9-3, Rear Wheel Bearing (One) Replacement in the UK Name Independent garage estimate Franchise dealer estimate Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £104 - £191 Labour time: 0-1 hours £143 - £197 £201 - £267 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £105 - £191 Labour time: 0-1 hours £143 - £197 £202 - £267 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £107 - £195 Labour time: 0-1 hours £145 - £201 £204 - £271 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £107 - £195 Labour time: 0-1 hours £145 - £200 £204 - £271 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £106 - £194 Labour time: 0-1 hours £144 - £200 £204 - £270 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £108 - £197 Labour time: 0-1 hours £146 - £202 £206 - £273 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £106 - £193 Labour time: 0-1 hours £144 - £199 £203 - £269 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £107 - £195 Labour time: 0-1 hours £145 - £201 £204 - £271 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £106 - £193 Labour time: 0-1 hours £144 - £199 £203 - £269 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £105 - £192 Labour time: 0-1 hours £144 - £199 £203 - £269 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £106 - £193 Labour time: 0-1 hours £144 - £199 £203 - £269 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £103 - £188 Labour time: 0-1 hours £141 - £195 £200 - £264 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £103 - £188 Labour time: 0-1 hours £141 - £195 £199 - £264 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £103 - £188 Labour time: 0-1 hours £141 - £194 £199 - £264 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £107 - £195 Labour time: 0-1 hours £145 - £200 £204 - £271 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £108 - £196 Labour time: 0-1 hours £146 - £202 £205 - £272 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £104 - £190 Labour time: 0-1 hours £142 - £197 £201 - £266 Get exact price Part brands: Lucas, SNR, Saab Parts costs: £109 - £199 Labour time: 0-1 hours £147 - £204 £207 - £275 Get exact