



# How to check the Brake Fluid Level in your Mercedes W123

Keeping an eye on your brake fluid level may be one of the most important pieces of maintenance you can do. While other fluids being low or empty can damage your car, if your brake fluid drains out it can damage you!

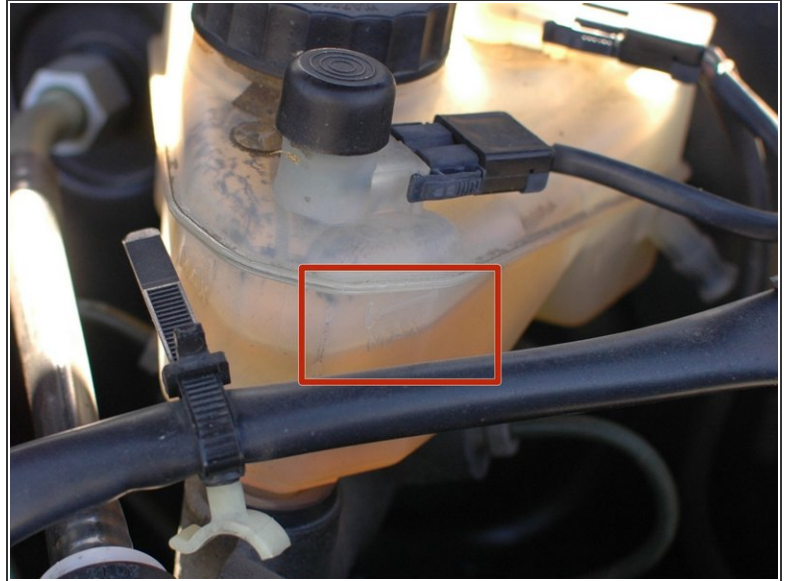
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## INTRODUCTION

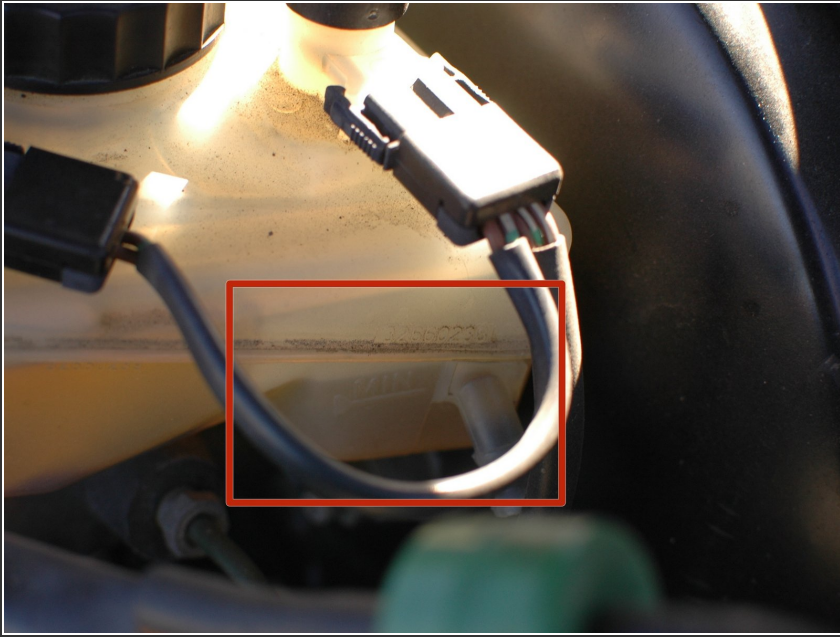
The brake fluid on your W123 is contained in a reservoir on top of the master cylinder. It's clear plastic to allow you to check the fluid level. It's not as easy as it may seem, however, due to the design of the reservoir. Check out this guide for the tips.

## Step 1 — How to check the Brake Fluid Level in your Mercedes W123



- Here you see the clear plastic reservoir for your brake fluid in your W123. Take a look at it to see the level of the fluid and the color. If it is dark, consider flushing it out with new fluid. There is a guide for that on the main W123 device page.
- Take a close look at the front of the reservoir and you'll see the MAX mark. The fluid should not be above this line. If it is, you can extract a bit of fluid with a plastic syringe that you can get at your local auto store.

## Step 2



- Here's the trick, though - standing up near the front of the car by the headlights you cannot see the back of the reservoir. The reservoir is designed with two chambers with a baffle between them. The fluid can be low in the rear chamber and you won't be able to see this from the front.
  - You'll need to stand at the side of the car near the front driver's side wheel
  - See here in this picture that the fluid on this car is almost at the MIN mark in the rear chamber. The chambers are reversed; the rear chamber is for the front brakes, and vice versa.
- ⚠ Note that brake systems do not run low on fluid unless there is a leak. A leak in the brake system is a safety issue. If you find that your brake fluid is low, find out why or ask a shop to check, and fix the issue just as soon as possible.
- In the meantime the fluid can be topped off until it reaches the MAX mark. Use only DOT 3 or DOT 4 fluid to top it off.

If you need to top the fluid off, be sure to clean around the reservoir cap if it's very dirty before unscrewing it.