



Rebuild or Replace?

Guide to All Commercial Wheel Hub Assemblies



Option 1: Rebuild Your Hub

Removal, disassembly, clean and prep, reassembly, and reinstallation.

Tools Required

- ▲ Screwdriver
- ▲ Hammer
- ▲ Mild Steel Punch
- ▲ Seal Puller
- ▲ Hub Puller
- ▲ Parts Washer
- ▲ Breaker Bar
- ▲ Torque Wrench
- ▲ Welder
- ▲ Seal Installation Tool
- ▲ Spindle Nut Socket
- ▲ Metered dispenser
- ▲ Oven
- ▲ Freezer

Parts Required

- ▲ Bearing Cups (A)
- ▲ Bearing Cones (B)
- ▲ Seal (C)
- ▲ Spindle Nut (D)
- ▲ Bearing Spacer - *Optional* (E)

Steps Required

1. Remove tire, wheel assembly and brake drum.
2. Loosen and remove spindle nut system and capture the lubricant.
3. Slide the hub off the spindle (hub removal tool may be required).
4. Remove and discard seal, inner bearing retainer (if present) and bearing spacer (if present).
5. Inspect, clean and dry components and replace as needed.
6. Remove old cups by welding a bead around the bearing surface.
7. Install new cups by first heating the hub in either boiling water or in an oven and cooling the bearing in a freezer.
8. Remove any damaged wheel studs by using a press and then install new ones using a press.
9. Remove a damaged ABS ring with a new one.
10. Install a new bearing spacer (if needed).
11. Lubricate the inner bearing cone and install it into the inner bearing cup.
12. Install a new seal (use a seal installation tool if required).
13. Lubricate the outer bearing cone and install it into the hub assembly.
14. Clean and lubricate the bearing journals on the spindle and slide the rebuilt hub onto the spindle.
15. Install the spindle nut and torque to recommended settings.
16. Fill with recommended amount of lubricant.
17. Reinstall brake drum and wheel.



True Costs to Rebuild

Labor: 3 hours x \$100 per hour = \$300.00
Downtime: 3 hours x \$75 per hour = \$225.00
Parts: Cost of Parts = \$166.67

Total Estimated Cost = \$691.67

Option 2: Replace Your Hub

Removal, clean and prep, and reinstallation.

Find your conclusion,
use the worksheet
on the back
cover.

Tools Required

- ▲ Screwdriver
- ▲ Hammer
- ▲ Mild Steel Punch
- ▲ Seal Puller
- ▲ Hub Puller
- ▲ Metered dispenser
- ▲ Spindle Nut Socket
- ▲ Torque Wrench

Steps Required

1. Remove tire, wheel assembly and brake drum.
2. Loosen and remove spindle nut system and capture the lubricant.
3. Slide the hub off the spindle (hub removal tool may be required).
4. Clean and lubricate the bearing journals on the spindle and slide the new hub onto the spindle.
5. Install the spindle nut and torque to recommended settings.
6. Fill with recommended amount of lubricant.
7. Reinstall brake drum and wheel.

Parts Required

- ▲ Hub Assembly



True Costs to Replace

Labor: 1.3 hours x \$100 per hour = \$130.00

Downtime: 1.3 hours x \$75 per hour = \$97.50

Parts: Cost of Parts = \$303.02

Total Estimated Cost = \$530.52

Rationale to Rebuild or Replace

Weigh the risks and rewards, then decide for yourself.

Rebuilding

Risks

- ▲ Possibility of reusing damaged components
- ▲ Susceptible to mistakes in rebuild process
- ▲ Possibility of using mismatched components
- ▲ More labor cost
- ▲ Higher level of technician training required

Rewards

- ▲ Rebuild components are often in stock
- ▲ Less expensive total part costs

Replacing

Risks

- ▲ Replacement hub may not be in stock
- ▲ More expensive total part cost

Rewards

- ▲ Less susceptible to technician mistakes
- ▲ Lower labor cost
- ▲ Simplified process
- ▲ New components with longer life

You Decide - Use the Worksheet Below to Weigh Your Options

| | Cost of Tools Needed | Cost of Parts Needed | Cost of Labor | Cost of Downtime | Total Cost |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|------------|
| Rebuild | | | | | |
| Replace | | | | | |

Need help in your own decision to rebuild or replace? Call us at 800-547-9473.

