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Technical Bulletin

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.  
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Newest

**SERVICE BULLETIN**

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**AFTERMARKET CHROMING OF NISSAN ALLOY WHEELS NOT RECOMMENDED**

This bulletin has been amended. The Applied Vehicles have been updated. Please discard all previous versions of this bulletin.

**APPLIED VEHICLES:** All Models

**SERVICE INFORMATION**

Nissan Original Equipment or Genuine Accessory Alloy wheels, along with their finish coating (clear, chrome, titanium, etc.), are specifically developed to achieve Nissan design and performance standards. These Original Equipment or Genuine Accessory wheels are subjected to testing to ensure they meet Nissan's standards.

Nissan Original Equipment Alloy or Genuine Accessory wheels subjected to aftermarket chroming **may no longer continue to meet these standards** and may be seriously damaged. Therefore, Nissan **most strongly discourages**, and recommends that these wheels NEVER be subjected to, aftermarket chroming.

Nissan does not in any way whatsoever warrant or guarantee such modified wheels or their performance. To the contrary, **aftermarket chroming of Nissan original equipment Genuine Accessory Alloy wheels will likely result in DENIAL of any warranty claim.**

If Nissan Original Equipment or Genuine Accessory Alloy wheels are subjected to aftermarket chroming, the problems which may occur as a result of the chroming process, include:

1. The chroming process generally removes the original finish by "burning" or "chemical" methods, both of which may cause the heat treatment of the alloy to be changed. The application of chrome plating has to be controlled correctly, as the alloy can be harmed by a poorly controlled process.
2. Aftermarket chroming may degrade the durability, long term appearance, and **may affect the safety and performance of the wheels.**

➔ Accordingly, Nissan **most strongly recommends** that Original Equipment or Genuine Accessory Alloy wheels **NEVER** be modified by processes such as aftermarket chrome plating.

Please consult the Nissan Warranty Policies and Procedures Manual pertaining to the Dealer's responsibility when altering or modifying vehicles.

**Claims Information**

Note that damage to Nissan Original Equipment or Genuine Accessory Alloy wheels, including, but not limited to appearance, performance, and durability issues which are due to any non-factory authorized process, such as chroming, is the responsibility of the customer, and is excluded from the applicable Nissan Warranty, please consult the "Nissan Warranty Information Booklet" for specific details.

**NISSAN****NISSAN NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

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**Subject: Genuine Nissan Original Equipment (OE) Wheels - Chroming****Attention: Dealer Principals, Sales, Parts and Service Manager**

Recently, Nissan was contacted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and advised that some dealers have had aftermarket companies chrome Genuine Nissan Original Equipment (OE) wheels and have then sold vehicles equipped with these altered wheels to other dealers and/or consumers. Nissan has previously published bulletins advising against this practice, pointing out that the chroming process may damage the wheels. (see Nissan Technical Service Bulletin Numbers NTB92-123 dated December 22, 1992 and NTB92-123a dated August 30, 2006.) This letter is intended to advise you again of those very significant concerns, and that NHTSA is investigating certain incidents that have resulted from this practice.

The aftermarket chroming of OE wheels may compromise the safety of the wheels. OE chromed wheels are created by chroming a wheel blank, and the finished product meets or exceeds specified design standards for road wheels. By contrast, aftermarket companies use a different process. Specifically, in order to chrome the wheels, they usually have to remove the factory finish often by "burning" or by "chemical" methods. These methods may change the heat treatment of the wheel alloy. Further, the application of chrome plating has the potential to affect the heat treatment of the OEM wheel, if it is not controlled correctly.

In short, Nissan North America (Nissan) strongly believes that attempts to chrome OE wheels in the aftermarket may compromise their integrity, and has previously advised you of such. We note again that several recent incidents involving OE wheels altered in the aftermarket are being investigated by NHTSA.

Because Nissan does not authorize its dealerships to modify the OE wheels, Nissan has not and will not defend or indemnify dealers who engage in this practice for any consequent claims or lawsuits related to wheels, which have been changed from their original OEM condition. All potential liability belongs to the dealer and/or the company performing the aftermarket chroming, as would sole responsibility for ensuring that the altered wheels still meet the applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards. In our view, the dealer or the aftermarket company performing the chroming would also be responsible for compliance with all applicable Federal regulations pertaining to the wheels, including reporting and remedying any defects associated with these altered wheels. In addition, by the Nissan Dealer Sales and Service Agreement, Nissan would be entitled to defense and indemnification from the dealer should a claim or litigation be served upon Nissan.

We reiterate that it is our strongest recommendation that if your dealership is engaged in this practice, you discontinue doing so immediately.

Attached to this document is a listing of available Nissan OE chrome wheels as well as other accessory wheels.

Nissan Parts and Service Operations  
07/30/2007