

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Kyung asks, “I own a 2003 Honda CR-V. The manual recommends that anti-freeze containing no silicate should be used. Is this due to the aluminum engine? Does silicate react with aluminum at high temperatures? If it is diluted with water, would tap water be all right? Is softened water OK?”

**Halderman:** The silicate-free antifreeze recommendation is due to water pump vane wear that the silicate additive in the conventional antifreeze can cause. Always use the coolant specified for use in your vehicle for maximum life for the engine and the cooling system. I would recommend that you use distilled water in the cooling system because it is mineral free and low cost (about \$1 per gallon and you will only need about one gallon).

