

Wheels: ABF writes, “My daughter has a 2004 Chevy Trailblazer that is out of warranty due to mileage. There was no heat from heater last fall. A radiator shop told us that DEX-COOL® is a problem with this vehicle as it tends to gum up the passageways, in the radiator or around the thermostat. They flushed the system and changed the thermostat and coolant (not using DEX-COOL®).

One year later, the check engine light comes on. The Chevy dealer says it is a thermostat not functioning properly. My daughter had the system flushed again, and this time filled with DEX-COOL®. Would you please comment if DEX-COOL® is a problem with this vehicle.”

Halderman: There are some studies that indicate that Organic Acid Technology (OAT) coolants like DEX-COOL® can affect plastic used in gaskets and radiators over time. Conventional (green) coolants contain silicates, which can erode water pumps and affect oxygen sensors if there is some leakage into the combustion chamber.

I recommend staying with what the factory recommends. Faults can and do happen and DEX-COOL® has been blamed for many faults which usually start as a leak caused by another fault. Air then gets into the system and rust forms. Often this rust is blamed on the coolant.

I hope this information is helpful.

