

Wheels: J.P. writes by e-mail: *“I have a 1998 Jeep Cherokee with 4 liter, 6 cylinder, inline engine. I'm trying to change the two top hoses that go into the firewall to the heater core. One is 5/8 inch. No problem. Part stores all carry this size. The other one is 11/16 inch. I've checked several different parts stores and the local Chrysler dealer. No one carries. Can I use a 3/4inch or is there another solution? Thank you”*

Halderman: To make sure that I was giving you the correct information, I asked Tom Freels the Chrysler Automotive Program (CAP) coordinator at Sinclair Community College for help.

Here is his response: “I don't see a problem with using the ¾ inch hose if that is all that he can find in bulk. However, both of the heater hoses are available from Chrysler and some local dealers even stock it so it should only be a day's wait for one if it had to be ordered.

55036924AD- return hose list price 15.35

55037326AC -supply hose list price 35.75

These are relatively affordable and are the original equipment manufacturers (OEM) part that will have all of the bends formed in them and fit like new. I'm not sure why a dealer told him that they couldn't get them unless they only looked at getting an 11/16 inch hose and didn't look for the part numbers.”

Thanks Tom. I think that using the original equipment hose is more expensive, it will be correct for this vehicle. Besides using the OEM parts this will make it look like it did when it came off the assembly line. Sometimes owners create some problems by using replacement parts that are not exactly like the factory hoses. For example, I have seen where a heater hose was replaced and as short a section as possible was used whereas the original hose was longer and routed so that there was some slack in the hose. This slack or extra length is done on purpose for two reasons:

1. The heater hose is attached to the engine at one end and the engine is mounted to the body or frame using rubber mounts. There needs to be some extra length to allow for the movement of the engine.
2. The extra length is also needed to help reduce engine vibrations from being transmitted to the heater core which cause heater core failure.

Due to the above, I usually recommend that stock replacement parts be used, or in the case of hoses, use replacement hoses that are cut to the same length as the original hose and routed in the same way.

