

1997 - 2013 Corvette: Service Bulletin: #PIC5335A: Composite Transverse Spring Damage - (Dec 13, 2012)

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Subject:	Composite Transverse Spring Damage
Models:	2004 - 2009 Cadillac XLR
	1997 - 2013 Chevrolet Corvette

This PI was superseded to update model years and recommended field. Please discard PIC5335.

The following diagnosis might be helpful if the vehicle exhibits the symptom(s) described in this PI.

Condition/Concern

Front and/or rear composite springs cracked and/or broken on the same vehicle with no "obvious" reason for the repeat occurrence.

Recommendation/Instructions

It is important that the Transverse Spring Replacement Procedure is being closely followed and the related special tools: J33432-A & J42188 are being used. Refer to the appropriate Service Information document(s) to confirm the correct service procedure(s) are being followed when servicing this spring. If the damage is not installation induced, chemical corrosion could be the cause. Engineering has found that two chemicals, Phosphoric acid and Hydrofluoric acid, are attacking the fiberglass/composite spring material. The acids are often found in engine compartment cleaners, wheel cleaners, and underbody cleaners. They are also used by many Touch-less Car Washes as part of a buffered cleaning solution. If the concentration is not correct, vehicle damage can result.

Corvette Owners Manuals contain information such as "NOTICE: If you use acidic or corrosive cleaning products, engine de-greasers or aluminum cleaning agents on fiberglass springs, you may damage the springs."

The latest version of TSB 00-08-48-005 addresses the harmful effects of Hydrofluoric

Acid as it relates to vehicle glass & how to determine if a vehicle has suffered excessive / repeated exposure. Such exposure can also have a negative effect on the fiberglass springs.

This info is to supply the dealer with information to be used by the dealer to counsel the customer. This Is NOT to make any recommendation on whether or not to replace a spring under warranty or goodwill. The GM DMA (District Manager of After-sales) should be consulted by the dealer with regard to this area.

Please follow this diagnostic or repair process thoroughly and complete each step. If the condition exhibited is resolved without completing every step, the remaining steps do not need to be performed.

Online URL: <https://www.corvetteactioncenter.com/tech/knowledgebase/article.php?id=1330>