

WIRE WHEEL COVERS AND FCs

I have a '63 Corvan and I have been collecting literature about FCs. I have two different sales catalogs and in one it claims that wire wheel covers are not available and in another it shows a picture of wire wheels covers as an option! So what would you do if you had two different views?? That's right I wrote a letter to my Corvanatic tech rep to get the real scoop. I thought Dave Newell's answer was good enough to expand into an article for this issue.....

I received your letter re wire wheel covers and this subject has surfaced over the years many times. Actually, both brochures that you sent copies of are correct - it's just that they are talking about two different things!

The '63 Corvair car/Greenbrier sales catalog lists factory options only - that is, they could only be ordered with the car and installed at the assembly plant. These are RPOs, or regular production options. Wire wheel covers were RPOs for Corvair cars 1962-1969, but were not for Corvair 95s in any year. However, full wheel covers were an RPO for 95s in 1961-1965, the same as used on Impalas.

On the other side of the coin, the truck Custom Feature Accessory catalog which you sent a copy of only shows dealer-installed accessories, and these had part numbers. They were stocked in the dealer's parts departments or could be ordered from Chevrolet for a customer's car. They were then installed by the dealer. Both RPOs and dealer-installed accessories are stock, providing the later are correct for a given year. There are some cases when an item (such as Corvair car Wire wheel covers, 95 heaters, west coast mirrors, etc) could be either RPOs or accessories, and in the earlier years these were called FOAs (Factory Ordered Accessory) when installed at the assembly plant.

Ok, so, while car wire wheel covers could be RPOs or Dealer installed accessories, Corvair 95 wire wheel covers were dealer-installed only. They were of course 14" Impala wire wheel covers and nothing more, and carried the same part number, naturally.

Now, as I'm sure you'll remember, there are two styles of 95 wire wheel covers and car wire wheel covers in the years 1962-1965. There were no wire wheel covers at all in 1961. In 1962, 13" wire wheel covers were available for Corvairs and Chevy IIs, but there were no 14" in 1962 for Impalas or 95s. These were the two-bar cheaper style cover as shown in the '63 truck accessory catalog.

In 1963, 14" wire wheel covers became available for the Impala. They were not officially listed in the dealer's price schedules for accessories as being applicable to 95s, but the sales boys did show them in the catalogs for 95s and they worked fine. I'm sure that many were installed on 95s and there is no question that they are stock for 1963.

In 1964-1965, the new 3-bar 14" wire wheel cover (and 13" on cars) was officially listed as applying to the 95s as an accessory. So the wire wheel covers are "stock" for 95s for 1963-1965 only.

I hope I've made this clear. You see, accessory merchandising in Chevrolet is entirely separate from factory options, sometimes their do cross, though.

Dave Newell