



Corvette Forum > C6 Corvette, 2005 - 2009 > C6 Corvette General Discussion

Need help : cracked headlamp cover

Forums

User CP

Events

Store

Vendors

Buy a Vette

Other

My Recent Topics

Search

Quick Links

FAQ

Log Out



Welcome, bugman. [C6]
You last visited: Yesterday at 10:51 PM
[Private Messages](#): Unread 0, Total 125.

Closed

Page 1 of 2 1 2 >

Thread Tools Search this Thread Display Modes

01-03-2007, 06:10 PM

bugman

CF Senior Member



Lifetime Member

Member Since: Mar 2005
Location: Lewes DE

Need help : cracked headlamp cover



This just cracked with no known trauma at all.
No accident. No rock impact, as you can tell on the photos.
Just started cracking soon after I got the car, and continued with time to get worse.
Took it to the dealer today, and they're looking into it.

Sure hope it can be replaced on warranty.
Was told the headlamp unit would cost \$1036. ☹

So here are some questions for you guys.

Any vendors that you would recommend?
I might decide to get the part and replace myself if that's possible and the price is good.

Can anyone tell me how difficult this is to replace? Looks like it might be quite involved to replace. Anyone with experience replacing one of these who can guide me? thanks for any suggestions.

LT4CompYell

Don't get too upset; unless they find it's been impacted in some way, it should be covered under warranty. There's twisting up front and vibration plus shock from the road; all has an effect. I've had a body panel crack the day after I took delivery of another, older Vette.

One suggestion: you now know how expensive these units are. It might be worthwhile to buy some of that clear protective film from 3M, commonly called "clear bra" and/or have someone install it, at least over your headlights. It is possible that Griot's makes or carries it.

Zymurgy

If they won't cover it under warranty (IMO they should) and you are stuck doing it yourself, you can save some money by buying the replacement unit from Fred Beans for \$882. You might also check that big auction site that starts with E as they sometimes have individual units available.

AFVETTE

Quote:

Originally Posted by **LT4CompYell**

Don't get too upset; unless they find it's been impacted in some way, it should be covered under warranty. There's twisting up front and vibration plus shock from the road; all has an effect. I've had a body panel crack the day after I took delivery of another, older Vette.

One suggestion: you now know how expensive these units are. It might be worthwhile to buy some of that clear protective film from 3M, commonly called "clear bra" and/or have someone install it, at least over your headlights. It is possible that Griot's makes or carries it.

 If you're sure there wasn't ANY external impact, I'd try the dealer and a warranty claim as a "defect", can't hurt.

Your other option (if the lens is actually broken) is to file a claim against comprehensive part of your insurance.

Good luck in any event.

Tom

2006 Monterey Red coupe - NCM Delivery 4322 on 3/22/06



01-03-2007, 06:26 PM

#5

johnodrake

CF Senior Member

★★★★★

Supporting Member



Member Since: Dec 2002

Location: Sterling VA

My Corvette Photos

Quote:

Originally Posted by **LT4CompYell**

One suggestion: you now know how expensive these units are. It might be worthwhile to buy some of that clear protective film from 3M, commonly called "clear bra" and/or have someone install it, at least over your headlights. It is possible that Griot's makes or carries it.



Check out XPEL

Vita contin git. Vive com eo!

**Machine Silver '06 Z51 Convertible**

Daily Driver Y2K BMW 540iAS Dinan

Gone now but not forgotten: 🙏

Sebring Silver '97 LPE SC Coupe

Mille Miglia Red '73 L82 Coupe

Daytona Yellow '70 L46 Coupe



01-03-2007, 07:26 PM

#6

JVM225

CF Senior Member

★★★★★

St. Jude Donor '06



Member Since: Jul 2006

Location: Farmingdale NY

My Corvette Photos

Quote:

Originally Posted by **AFVETTE**

If you're sure there wasn't ANY external impact, I'd try the dealer and a warranty claim as a "defect", can't hurt.

Your other option (if the lens is actually broken) is to file a claim against comprehensive part of your insurance.

Good luck in any event.

Tom



I would also recommend the 3M material once you get the new one.



01-03-2007, 07:44 PM

#7

greengo CF Senior Member  Member Since: Jan 2003 Location: Seguin Tx 	01-03-2007, 07:56 PM #8 Mine did the same and the dealer ordered a new one and replaced in three days....under warranty!!!!!!!!!!!!
redhot6 CF Senior Member  Member Since: Nov 2004 Location: North Richland Hills TX My Corvette Photos 	01-03-2007, 07:56 PM #8 Dealer had to replace both of mine for a similiar problem. The plexiglass on both of mine was "checked" with small cracks. I also think that the problem could be made worse with any type of rock guard film over the headlights. Seems that the glass is too thick and heats/cools at different rates from inside to out when the lights are on for extended periods. Anyone with film on their headlights should check for this type of problem. By the way, this problem has been reported before.
hodgeee CF Senior Member Member Since: Nov 2005 	01-03-2007, 09:23 PM #9 Hey also keep your eyes open on ebay, I have seen these headlamps go on sale for buy it now prices of \$225 a piece, from wrecked vehicles, in matching colors!
DSOMC6 CF Senior Member  Member Since: Dec 2005 Location: So O.C. CA 	01-03-2007, 09:46 PM #10 I have both left and right headlamps. Off the 05 C6. DSOM in color.
clevitekid CF Senior Member  Member Since: Jan 2006 Location: Miami FL My Corvette Photos 	01-03-2007, 09:52 PM #11 Good Luck, Bugman. I, too, think that Chevrolet should replace the entire headlamp assembly under warranty, but I don't have much influence with them. For and CF members that have not visited Bugman's extensive website, it is a treasure trove of good information for C6 owners. Thanx, B-man !! The Clevite Kid 🚗 2006 C6 Vert - MN6 - Silver and Red <i>"May the Torque be with you."</i>
calemasters CF Senior Member  Member Since: Jan 2005 Location: Thousand Oaks California My Corvette Photos 	01-03-2007, 10:43 PM #12 Was told the headlamp unit would cost \$1036. Remember the good ole days when you could walk into the local parts store and buy a sealed beam lamp for \$1.50 and install it in 3 minutes with out having to remove the bumper? Better living through technology. 
01-03-2007, 11:16 PM	#13

johnnodrake

CF Senior Member



Member Since: Dec 2002

Location: Sterling VA

[My Corvette Photos](#)

Quote:

Originally Posted by **calemasters**

Remember the good ole days when you could walk into the local parts store and buy a sealed beam lamp for \$1.50 and install it in 3 minutes with out having to remove the bumper?

Better living through technology.

Ah, the good old days. You could actually see 15 - 20 feet in front of the car with them, too ☺

Vita contin git. Vive com eo!

**Machine Silver '06 Z51 Convertible**

Daily Driver Y2K BMW 540iAS Dinan

Gone now but not forgotten: 🙏

Sebring Silver '97 LPE SC Coupe

Mille Miglia Red '73 L82 Coupe

Daytona Yellow '70 L46 Coupe

01-03-2007, 11:34 PM

#14

Jacksonbart

CF Senior Member



Member Since: Feb 2006

Location: Sterling VA

Cha Ching

01-03-2007, 11:40 PM

#15

bugman

CF Senior Member



Member Since: Mar 2005

Location: Lewes DE

Hey, thanks, clevitekid !

and thanks to all for the notes above.

There was absolutely no impact or other reason for this to occur.

Note that I did actually have Stongard film on both headlamps - it's really good stuff, I removed it before taking that picture. That stuff is so thick that it would have absolutely protected the headlamp if a rock had hit it. This just started on it's own for unclear reasons.

Yes, I've wondered if this ultra-thick stongard light protection might have somehow contributed to the cracking of the cover. Here is the Stongard light protection I used: it's VERY thick, about 2.5 mm thick (98 mil). More on this stuff [at my web site](#) - click on "protection".

Well, thanks for the tip on Fred Beans. I'd like to do the work myself - but looking at the area, doesn't look like it will be an easy fix -- looks like you'd have to remove either the entire front fascia or the side panel to get access - and I've never done that. Sure would like some advice if anyone can tell me the best way to replace this myself, using standard tools.

Thanks again for all the replies - a good bunch of guys in here 🇺🇸



01-04-2007, 12:20 AM

#16

PhotoLad

CF Senior Member

Supporting Member

Member Since: Mar 2006

Location: Antelope CA



Member Since: Mar 2006

Location: Antelope CA

Hi Bugman,

That's a bummer, sorry it happened to you. So is it only the one side ?

I saved some notes before on thickness for headlight covers and someone here said 40 mil was too thick, but 20mil was OK. There problem was the installer used too much alcohol in the water mixture. It should have been 30/70 for the headlights, and 50/50 for the rest of the car. They had the 20 mil. expel or 3M.

I think going too thick traps too much heat, 2.5mm 🌀 is that stiff like plexiglass, or still flexible ? My expel installer used 7 mil like the rest of the car and left a 3mm uncovered gap around the whole headlight for the heat to escape. I forgot to ask about the alcohol mixture 🌀



01-04-2007, 01:28 AM

#17

Pozzo

CF Senior Member

Member Since: Sep 2005

Someone asked the question below on a recent thread:

"Headlight covers or not?

I recently bought headlight covers from MAMW and was going to install them for rock/sand protection. One Vette conversion center said not to do it as the light unit could crack due to the heat being trapped inside more with the covers on top. Any experiences with this?

Thanks!!"

I replied:

"I have a set of thick headlight covers installed; can't remember where I bought them from.

A warning came with the set which said something like: "Warning- Do NOT use with headlights of more than 60 watts." If you look you may find a similar warning. This gave me pause at first because the combined output of the low beams and high beams exceeds this limit.

I installed them anyway because I had just had to replace one of the headlights after a woman backed into my car while we were stopped at a stoplight. The plastic cover over the headlight was gouged. The cover is not a separate piece so the whole headlight had to be replaced. They cost \$950 apiece.

Since I don't plan on driving with the high beams on for any length of time I figured it was ok to install them. They've been on for more than a year now without any problem, and they do protect the very expensive headlights."

I have the same very thick stongard covers that you have.

I found a headlight on the website that begins with e that a previous posted mentioned. I followed the instructions in the Helms service manual to replace them. It states that the front fascia has to be removed. I could not get the fascia removed entirely but I got it removed enough that I could install the headlight. The 7 (If I recall correctly) screws at the top of the fender also need to be removed. The fender only has to be pulled up, not completely removed. The headlight can then be slipped in place and bolted down. The aiming of the headlight must then be done by turning the small wheel that raises or lowers the low beam lens.

Maybe someone with a scanner can post the instructions from the manual. Hopefully it won't come to that

as GM should replace the headlight.



01-04-2007, 02:08 PM

#18

calemasters

CF Senior Member

Member Since: Jan 2005

Location: Thousand Oaks California

[My Corvette Photos](#)



I believe the aftermarket covers caused the cracking. If so, this is not warranty. I would suggest that you remove the cover from the other headlamp.

Subject: Info - Chemical Damage to Exterior Polycarbonate Headlamp Lenses #02-08-42-001B - (10/08/2004)

Models: 2005 and Prior Passenger Cars and Trucks

2003-2005 HUMMER H2

This bulletin is being revised to add the 2004 and 2005 model years. Please discard Corporate Bulletin Number 02-08-42-001A (Section 08 - Body and Accessories).

The bulletin is being issued to make dealers and customers aware of chemical damage that may be caused to exterior polycarbonate headlamp lenses. Most late model vehicles have these types of headlamp lenses. This material is used because of its temperature and high impact resistance.

A variety of chemicals can cause crazing or cracking of the headlamp lens. Headlamp lenses are very sensitive. Care should be exercised to avoid contact with all exterior headlamp lenses when treating a vehicle with any type of chemical, such as those recommended for rail dust removal. Rubbing compound, grease tar and oil removers, tire cleaners, cleaner waxes and even car wash soaps in too high a concentration may also attribute to this condition. This could result in the need to replace the entire headlamp housing.

Also, crazing or deformations of the lens may occur if a shop mat or fender cover is draped over the fender and covers a portion or all of the headlamp assembly while the DRL or headlamps are on. This action restricts the amount of heat dissipated by the headlamps.

Once a heat buildup is generated by the headlamp, a degradation of the headlamp lens begins. This degradation of the lens can be unnoticeable at first and eventually manifest as spider cracks. In more extreme cases, it will begin to melt the lens of the headlamp.

Last edited by calemasters : 01-04-2007 at 02:13 PM.



01-04-2007, 02:19 PM

#19

VET4LES

CF Senior Member

Member Since: Oct 2004

Location: San Clemente CA

[My Corvette Photos](#)



Quote:
Originally Posted by **calemasters**

I believe the aftermarket covers caused the cracking. If so, this is not warranty. I would suggest that you remove the cover from the other headlamp.

Subject: Info - Chemical Damage to Exterior Polycarbonate Headlamp Lenses #02-08-42-001B - (10/08/2004)

Models: 2005 and Prior Passenger Cars and Trucks

2003-2005 HUMMER H2

This bulletin is being revised to add the 2004 and 2005 model years. Please discard Corporate Bulletin Number 02-08-42-001A (Section 08 - Body and Accessories).

The bulletin is being issued to make dealers and customers aware of chemical damage that may be caused to exterior polycarbonate headlamp lenses. Most late model vehicles have these types of headlamp lenses. This material is used because of its temperature and high impact resistance.

A variety of chemicals can cause crazing or cracking of the headlamp lens. Headlamp lenses are very sensitive. Care should be exercised to avoid contact with all exterior headlamp lenses when treating a vehicle with any type of chemical, such as those recommended for rail dust removal. Rubbing compound, grease tar and oil removers, tire cleaners, cleaner waxes and even car wash soaps in too high a concentration may also attribute to this condition. This could result in the need to replace the entire headlamp housing.

Also, crazing or deformations of the lens may occur if a shop mat or fender cover is draped over the fender and covers a portion or all of the headlamp assembly while the DRL or headlamps are on. This action restricts the amount of heat dissipated by the headlamps.

Once a heat buildup is generated by the headlamp, a degradation of the headlamp lens begins. This degradation of the lens can be unnoticeable at first and eventually manifest as spider cracks. In more extreme cases, it will begin to melt the lens of the headlamp.

Good information. Thanks. 🙏



01-04-2007, 08:01 PM

#20

Mel
2001

CF Senior Member

Member Since: Sep 2000

Location: las vegas nv



Closed

Page 1 of 2 1 2 > ⌂

[Corvette Forum](#) > [C6 Corvette, 2005 - 7777](#) > [C6 Corvette General Discussion](#)

Need help : cracked headlamp cover

◀ [Previous Thread](#) | [Next Thread](#) ▶

Posting Rules

You **may** post new threads
You **may** post replies
You **may** post attachments
Supporting Members Only
You **may** edit your posts

vB code is **On**
Smilies are **On**
[IMG] code is **On**
HTML code is **Off**

Forum Jump

[Pontiac Solstice Forum](#) - [Sportbike Forum](#) - [Cadillac XLR Forum](#) - [Corvettes for Sale](#) - [Wine Forum](#) - [Chevy SSR Forum](#) - [Auto Loan Calculator](#) - [GTO Forum](#)

Internet Solutions by Intechnic

All times are GMT -4. The time now is 12:05 AM.

[Contact Us](#) - [Archive](#) - [Top](#)

Powered by vBulletin Version 3.6.2
Copyright ©2000 - 2007, Jelsoft Enterprises Ltd.