



**International Carwash Association**

*Serving the Professional Car Care Industry*

401 N. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-4267  
**P 312.321.5199**  
F 312.245.1085  
e-mail: [ica@smithbucklin.com](mailto:ica@smithbucklin.com)  
[www.CarCareCentral.com](http://www.CarCareCentral.com)

### **Vehicle Alert - All General Motors Passenger Cars and Trucks Chemical Damage to Exterior Polycarbonate Headlamp Lenses**

General Motors has issued Service Information Bulletin #02-08-42-001B- dated October 8, 2004 to make dealers and customers aware of chemical damage that may be caused to exterior polycarbonate headlamp lenses. Most late model vehicles and trucks 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 deformation 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.

The bulletin was issued by General Motors for information only. Damaged headlamp lenses that occur in your car wash are not covered under warranty.