



STATEMENT

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REMANUFACTURING/REFINISHING STEEL/ALUMINUM WHEELS

NOTE TO EDITOR: *Ford Motor Company recommends use of replacement tires and wheels that are the same size and type as those originally provided by Ford Motor Company. Use of any tire or wheel not recommended by Ford Motor Company can affect the safety and performance of the vehicle, which could result in an increased risk of loss of vehicle control, vehicle rollover, personal injury and death. Additionally, the use of non-recommended tires and wheels could cause steering, suspension, axle or transfer case/power transfer unit failure. In the case of recycled wheels, Ford Motor Company offers the following specific recommendations:*

DEARBORN, Mich., April 27 – Ford Motor Company **DOES NOT APPROVE THE REMANUFACTURING/REFINISHING** of steel or aluminum wheels when it involves re-machining, re-plating, welding, bending, straightening, reforming or adding new material other than cosmetic coatings.

As a general rule, Ford Motor Company **APPROVES REFINISHING** of steel or aluminum wheels only if all necessary repairs/reconditioning can be completed by cosmetic sanding or polishing that removes no metal and, instead, removes only the finish. The refinished wheel must have the same part number as the part number of the wheel it is replacing.

Go to <http://media.ford.com> for news releases and high-resolution photographs.

Any wheel that is a candidate for refinishing **MUST BE CAREFULLY INSPECTED** and **DISCARDED** if the wheel contains any of the following:

- 1) Cracks;
- 2) Corrosion, scrapes, gouges, dents or other damage that cannot be corrected with cosmetic sanding or polishing;
- 3) Refinishing that changes, or will change, the wheel's shape, contour, stylelines or other design features;
- 4) Refinishing that alters, or will alter, the wheel's rim flanges, wheel nut chamfers, wheel pilot holes or other functional surfaces;
- 5) Refinishing that leaves, or will leave, paint, clearcoat or other coatings on the wheel's mounting surfaces or on wheel nut contact surfaces;
- 6) Repainting that involves cure temperatures above 350°F;
- 7) Chrome plating (either re-plating or chrome plating a painted wheel).

Ford Motor Company **DOES NOT** warrant any remanufactured/refinished wheel provided by an aftermarket supplier.

Those choosing to use a remanufactured/refinished wheel from an aftermarket supplier for replacement of a damaged wheel should:

- 1) Request written assurance from the aftermarket supplier that the recommendations above have been followed;
- 2) Verify that the remanufactured/refinished wheel carries permanent markings that identify the aftermarket supplier and the date of remanufacturing/refinishing;
- 3) Request clarification regarding the warranty provided by the remanufacturer and/or aftermarket supplier, if any. Remember, Ford Motor Company does not warrant any remanufactured/refinished wheel provided by an aftermarket supplier;
- 4) Use new coated balance weight to reduce future cosmetic damage.

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