

“PEAKING” IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR

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CORVETTE COLORS, 1953-2023

Part 6 C6



The Most Popular Corvette Color of the C6 Generation (2005-2013): BLACK

Corvette purchasers of the early 2000s seemed to prefer something more classic, and that overall choice was black, which would be the color of more than 46,500 units for this generation.

However, if six versions of RED available during this generation – Victory, Precision, Torch, Magnetic, Monterey, and Crystal – are added together, they represented a bit more than 63,000 Corvettes produced.

2005: five new color options launched the C6 Generation (with 12 total hues): Precision Red (1,303 units), soon to be replaced by Victory Red (5,617 units), as well as Velocity Yellow (760), Daytona Sunset Orange (2,981), and Monterey Red (717). In all, there were five shades of red available for this year – those listed above plus Magnetic Red II; one Torch Red car was made for the Museum and then sold to a dealer; in all, 11,042 cars of a red hue were built for this model year. Magnetic Red II and Millennium Yellow, carrying an extra charge for several years, were now joined in that category by Monterey Red and Velocity Yellow – adding \$750; LeMans Blue added \$300. Machine Silver was favored this year (4,789 units). Exposed headlights reappeared for the first time since 1962, and keyless entry was introduced. The Indy 500 Corvette pace car was driven by Colin Powell.





2006: only eight color choices (none that were new) were available; dropped were Precision Red, Torch Red, Millennium Yellow, and Magnetic Red II – even though the latter sold 3,404 units the previous year; Black sold 7,243 units, but the two available Reds – Victory and Monterey – combined to sell 10,896 units. The Z06 option returned, not available in 2005. A red, white, and blue Z06 served as pace car for the Indy 500 driven by disgraced bicycle racer Lance Armstrong. Six-speed paddle shift auto. trans. became optional.

2007: Atomic Orange (3,790 of 40,561 units) replaced Daytona Sunset Orange; 8 total colors were available. Five hundred Indy 500 pace car replicas were again produced for the public, driven by actor Patrick Dempsey; all were convertibles and wore Atomic Orange – which, after this year, would decline in popularity, seeing only 726 orders by 2009 and being discontinued thereafter (but Inferno Orange would appear in 2011). Atomic Orange, Velocity Yellow, and Monterey Red, carried an extra \$750 cost due to additional tintcoat, joining LeMans Blue (\$300).



2008: two new colors reappeared, Jetstream Blue (3,728 built of 35,310 total units) and Crystal Red (5,420); again, only 8 colors were offered. LeMans Blue was dropped. Black was by far the preferred hue (9,380 units). Extra charges were added for Velocity Yellow (\$750), Atomic Orange (\$300), Jetstream Blue (\$750), and Crystal Red (\$750). A “427-Limited Edition Z06” was offered (505 built) in Crystal Red. Five hundred Indy 500 pace cars were also built for the public (\$59,090 for the coupe, \$68,160 for a convertible), available in silver/black to honor the 1978 pace car and numbered and signed by famed racer Emerson Fittipaldi. 500 Velocity Yellow (with black stripe) coupes were built for Hertz Rental Fun Collection (photo; rented for about \$99 pre-tax etc., or about \$250/day at present)



Hertz Edition



2009: Cyber Gray (instantly popular, 3,104 units) and Blade Silver (937) were added to seven previous colors; 16,956 units were built. Machine Silver was dropped. The added costs for selected colors continued. Two special editions appeared: the GT1 Championship Edition (125 units built, in coupe, convertible, Z06), in Velocity Yellow or Black, to commemorate its racing success; and the Competition Sport Special Edition (72 units, also in Z06), in silver and bearing black stripes. Beginning this year and several years into the future, a gas guzzler tax (\$1,000 and up) for selected ZR1 (particularly those with 8-speed automatic transmission) and Z06 Corvettes was levied for not meeting federal fuel economy standards. 1,415 ZR1s were built, available in all colors except

Arctic White and Crystal Red and adding about \$55,000 to the base cost of a coupe of \$47,895); driving school fee included.



2010: Eight colors were available, all of which were used previously; Victory Red and Atomic Orange (with only 726 orders in 2009) were discontinued. After being shelved years before, Torch Red (available from 1993-2004) reappeared and was instantly popular (2,249 of a total 12,194 units, second only to Black, 2,930). The Grand Sport Heritage package (6,042 units) also reappeared (being available in 1963, 1996, 2010-2014, and 2017-2019; re-trademarked in mid-2022), and became instantly popular - about half of this year's production of 12,194 units. Velocity Yellow, Jetstream Blue, and Crystal Red each added \$850 to the base cost.

2011: Inferno Orange (790 built of 13,596 sold) and Supersonic Blue (1,417 units) – came to the stable of eight colors from the previous year. A carbon fiber package (\$90,960) was available on the Z06 to honor Corvette's 50th Anniversary at Le Mans. For \$5,000 more, Corvette owners could select their car's VIN (ideal for collectors who wanted to match an older Corvette's number with that of a new Corvette).



2012: Carbon Flash (standing in for Black; 2,201 built of 11,647 total units) and Carlisle Blue (535) were added, while Jetstream Blue was deleted. A Centennial Edition (2,201 sold; \$4,950 added cost) was available in all models, with Carbon Flash exterior, black wheels/red stripes, red brake calipers, black stripe graphic, and special trim. A new option allowed customers a choice of brake caliper colors: silver, gray, yellow, or red.



2013: Night Race Blue (1,446 of 13,466 total) was the sole newcomer. To mark Corvette's 60th Anniversary and the last year for the C6 generation, a 60th Anniversary Design Package was offered in Arctic White and with special graphics (1,753 ordered; \$1,075 cost). Another special edition was offered: a 427 Convertible Collector Edition (691 units); all special editions (those mentioned and the Grand Sport Heritage) were available in all colors. There were ten colors for this model year, and opposites did in fact attract: Arctic White (2,938) was the favored hue of the year, followed closely by Black (2,878).

