

DOT 3, DOT 4, DOT 5 and DOT 5.1 Brake Fluids

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Just received this from Matco, and affects all brake mfg.'s/brands. If you use DOT 5.1, it will eventually eat the BUNA N o-rings in your brake system. ONLY use DOT 5 (Yes, I agree why isn't DOT 5.1 called DOT 7, or something else not so close to the product name DOT 5.)

DOT 3, DOT 4 and DOT 5.1 brake fluids are glycol based compounds that are compatible with one another. DOT 5 brake fluid is silicone based and should never be mixed with DOT 3, DOT 4 or DOT 5.1. DOT 3, DOT 4 and DOT 5.1 fluids may damage painted surfaces, and DOT 3 and DOT 4 have lower boiling temperatures than DOT 5 (DOT 5.1 has the same boiling point as DOT 5). Furthermore, DOT 3, DOT 4 and DOT 5.1 fluids are "hygroscopic", which means they absorb moisture from the air. This causes the fluid to turn dark, indicating that it is time for the brake fluid to be replaced. DOT 5 fluid will not damage paint, has a boiling temperature in excess of 500F, and is not hygroscopic.

Bottom line, if you're going to use/already using the better silicone brake fluid rather than the old hygroscopic, foamy, highly flammable MIL-5606, make sure you ONLY use DOT 5 in your brake system.