

Classic Chevy's - 1956 Chevrolet - Part 2

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Chevrolet planned to keep its remarkable reputation for style, more power and more refinements going strong in 1956. "The Hot One's Even Hotter"! "Loves to go - and looks it!" declared one 1956 ad campaign. The 1956 Chevrolet was bigger and more important looking. Although the basic body shell that was new in 1955 remained the same, detail changes were made to increase the car's already large appeal.

Major styling changes involved the grille, tail lights and side trim. The 1955 Chevrolet grille was very clean looking and the lattice work effect remained on the '56 but it was widened, parking lights were enlarged and it was raked slightly in on the bottom. At the rear, large chrome plated tail light housings were added. Each housed a round pointed tail light, a rectangular backup lamp and a small reflector. Access to the gas tank was through the driver side tail light housing. Larger front and rear chrome bumpers gave the illusion of greater length. Stainless body moldings were redesigned on all three body styles. The moldings served as a natural division points for two-tone paint jobs that were very popular on the 1955 and 1956 Chevy.

Chevrolet offered 19 different body styles on the Bel Air, Two-Ten and One-Fifty, three more than in 1955. A new Bel Air Sport Sedan 4 door hard top, Two-Ten Sport Sedan 4 door hard top and a Two-Ten Beauville 9 passenger 4 door station wagon were added. The best seller among the '56 Bel Air's was the four door sedan and Sport Coupe. The 1956 Sport Coupe 2 door hard top has always been a very popular car among collectors. The Nomad was back in 1956 and was described as a sport station wagon due to its 2 doors, great styling and color choices. The 1956 Chevrolet color options were 10 solid colors and 14 two-tone combinations. Popular solid colors were onyx black and matador red, while india ivory / dusk plum and india ivory / twilight turquoise were popular two-tones.

The new "Super Turbo Fire" V-8 was the existing 1955 Chevy 265 cubic inch with a special power pack kit consisting of a special intake manifold, higher lift cam, dual exhausts and a four barrel carburetor. This kit increased the horsepower to 205 which was 14 percent above the 1955 engine at 180 horsepower. If you wanted more power Chevrolet offered a 2-4 barrel (2-four's) that achieved 225 horsepower. In 1956 Chevy was beginning to win the horsepower war both on and off the race track.

Accessories were a big hit in 1955 and with the 1956 Chevrolet. For the first time you could add seat belts. All weather air conditioning was an option at \$430.00. Other items included compass, traffic light viewer and Kool Kooshions.

The 1956 Chevrolet is often overlooked and it shouldn't be! While the 1956 Chevrolet did bring a number of firsts, it can not compare with the previous year or the following one, as the best was yet to come. The 1957 Chevrolet (Part 3) Steve Farber is an author and auto related web site publisher. Learn more about the "Hot One's"! GM's Classic 1955 Chevrolet, 1956 Chevrolet and 1957 Chevrolet at his three web sites by viewing lots of seldom seen "Vintage Chevy Ad" pictures of body styles, body colors, interior colors. Plus, engine specifications, prices and production figures.