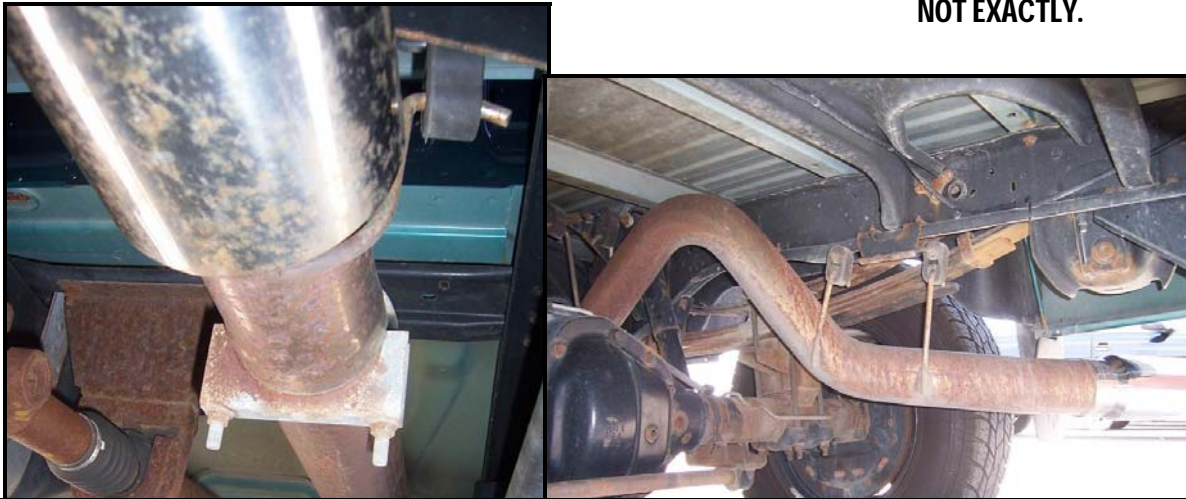


T304 vs. 409...It's all stainless, right?

NOT EXACTLY.



This is a 409 stainless steel system with a T304 tip - 11 months old. Truck resides in Michigan.



There *are* differences—and they should be factored into the decision when purchasing an exhaust system. The four main variables include: **corrosion resistance, temperature endurance, finishing quality and price.**

T304 is classified as an austenitic stainless steel containing **high levels of chromium and nickel**, and is the most corrosion resistant of the stainless group. T304 contains approximately 18% chromium and 8% nickel.

409 stainless steel contains a lower level of chromium and is a Ferritic stainless steel. 409 is a less expensive stainless grade and is used widely in the automotive industry, especially on exhaust and exterior parts in non-critical corrosive environments. The appearance of surface oxidation on 409 stainless steel is normal, is easily removed and does not effect durability or function

Because of the differences in composition, T304 stainless provides superior resistance to the corrosive agents found in exhaust emissions and harsh environments. Thus the characteristics of the region should, in part, dictate the ideal exhaust material. For example, localities with higher levels of salt exposure should lean toward a T304 system due to its ability to withstand corrosion.

In summary, when choosing an exhaust system, it is important to understand the differences in material grades and which grade of stainless steel is best suited for your vehicles' use.