

## Chevrolet goes Sonic -by Liana Reiners

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Following its recent appearance at the Johannesburg International Motor Show, Chevrolet's new Sonic Hatch has been officially introduced in South Africa. The newcomer is available with a choice of either a 1,4-litre or 1,6-litre petrol engines.

From a design point of view, the Sonic oozes with a sporty and youthful character. Viewed from any angle the Sonic presents itself as a progressive vehicle with style and polish. Typical of the Chevrolet brand identity is the prominent signature dual port grille with its distinctive "bow-tie" motif.



The theme of sporty sophistication is evident inside the Sonic too. Apart from oodles of space, the seats are comfortable and the instrument cluster well laid out. In short, the aim was to make the entire driving experience as enjoyable as possible.

Occupant safety was an overriding engineering objective for the new Sonic. To this end, an array of active and passive safety features including ABS with electronic brakeforce distribution, driver and passenger airbag protection and side airbags are included on the standard features list.



The Sonic Hatch 1.4 LS is powered by Chevrolet's new-generation 1,4-litre four-cylinder double overhead camshaft engine, with variable valve timing on both inlet and exhaust camshafts. This engine produces 74 kW at 6 000 r/min, with maximum torque of 130 Nm at 4 000 r/min. The combined cycle fuel economy measured by Chevrolet engineers for this model is 5,8 litres/100km.

On the other hand, the Sonic Hatch 1.6 LS has a 1,6-litre powerplant. Maximum power for this engine is 85 kW at 6 000 r/min, with peak torque of 155 Nm delivered at 4 000 r/min. The combined-cycle fuel consumption figure for this model is 6,5 litres/100km.

The Sonic 1.4 LS and 1.6 LS share a common specification level that includes alloy wheels, power steering, height and reach adjustable steering column, air-conditioning, a heated rear windscreen, power operated side mirrors with foldaway and heating functions, tinted windows, RDS radio with front loading CD and MP3/Aux input and four speakers, an on-board computer, ISOFIX child seat attachments, front fog lamps, remote central locking and an anti-theft alarm immobiliser.

Available options for the Comfort package include an upgrade to the sound system that includes six speakers, a USB port, Bluetooth connectivity, and satellite steering wheel mounted audio controls. Cruise control is also available as a factory fitted option.

Price range for the Chevrolet Sonic:

1.4 LS MT 5-speed	R155 000 to R158 000
1.6 LS MT 5-speed	R168 000 to R172 000
Optional Comfort package	R7 500

