

**Wheels:** A letter from Karl of Dayton says, “Many of the new vehicles have an oil monitoring feature that indicates when the oil needs changing. What factors does the computer use to make this determination? What are your thoughts on the accuracy of this technology?”

**Halderman:** The oil life monitoring system uses software that tracks engine run time, as well as mileage, and the number of stops and starts plus keeping track of temperature conditions. In my opinion, these oil life monitors are very accurate. For example, if a vehicle is used for short driving to and from work, plus typical weekend driving, the oil life monitor will trigger the change oil soon light at about 3,000 miles. If a vehicle is used for all highway driving, the oil life monitor may not signal for an oil change until 10,000 or more miles.

