

Wheels: An e-mail from Gil H. of Tipp City says, “We have a 2003 Olds Aurora, 4.0 with 46,000 miles. The car has been fairly well maintained and has been trouble free. The original 5-year GM warranty will expire April, 2008. Since we plan on keeping this car for at least three more years, I would like to get your thoughts on the pros and cons of contacting GM and purchasing an extended warranty.”

Halderman: Any extended warranty is basically an insurance policy. The fee charged is known and paid ahead of time and protects you from unknown future major vehicle expenses. There are many types of extended warranties and some offer more than others so look them over carefully. Extended warranties do not usually pay for routine replacement parts or services, such as a brake pad replacement or a new battery. However, many policies will pay for a replacement disc brake caliper, if it were found to be defective, or the replacement of leaking gaskets.

