

Wheels: *Dick A. writes by e-mail: “I own a 2004 Dodge Dakota pickup 6 cylinder with 43,000 miles on it. It’s been regularly serviced by the dealer where I bought it and by a very good repair shop. I wanted to know if I should change any original parts such as belts and hoses since they are now 8 years old. I have had them checked during regular service and the tech says they look fine. I intend to keep the truck forever and once I had a belt break on me years ago on the interstate so I want to be very cautious about it”.*

Halderman: The industry standard test for what is acceptable is that a belt that has three cracks in any three inch length of the belt should be replaced. However, since about 2005, most vehicle manufacturers started using belts from ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) rubber that do not crack like the older belts made from neoprene. These newer belts should be measured for wear and replaced as needed, which is usually every 100,000 miles. Regarding the hoses, these should be inspected by a professional technician and replaced as needed.

