

**Wheels:** Vic sent an e-mail, “I am a faithful reader of your Saturday morning column. I find it most informative. Keep up the good work. I own a 1994 Mercury Grand Marquis with 75,000 careful miles. It has been properly maintained and has never burned or leaked engine oil. Recently, however, almost overnight, it started consuming engine oil at the rate of 1 quart per 1500 miles. I have not changed oil or filter brands. I have serviced my own vehicles for over 30 years, and am quite puzzled by this inexplicable oil consumption. Any ideas?”

**Halderman:** Thanks for writing. Oil can escape past the piston rings, valve stem seals or can leak externally. Oil can also be burned if drawn into the intake manifold if the lower plenum gasket has failed. This is the most likely cause if there is no evidence of external oil leaks.

