

Wheels: An e-mail from Andy says, "I have a 1999 Chevrolet Venture 3.4 L, VIN E, which had a leaking intake manifold gasket. It was replaced with 42,501 miles. My mechanic told me that Chevy was having problems with this. He also said they had to make more gaskets because of low supply. Do you know if they are having this problem?"

Halderman: Yes, GM has problems with the intake manifold gasket on these engines and they fail most often in cold weather. The engineer that I talked with about the problem indicated that the root cause is that the manifold and cylinder heads are aluminum and the block is cast iron, which does not expand as much as the aluminum parts when the engine warms during normal operation. He told me that a new design gasket will be available in 2004.

