

Wheels: Mike sent a letter, “I read with interest your answer to Sam’s question about switching oils in his Ford van with 186,000 miles. I just want to comment from my own personal experience with this. I had a 1967 Pontiac with a 326 engine that I changed oil in every 4,000 to 6000 miles. This car never used a drop of oil and had over 100,000 miles when I sold it to a friend. He took it to a gas station and had the oil changed and it started using oil right away. When he complained to me we changed back to what I was using and it stopped burning oil right away. I cannot explain why but it made me a believer and I try to stick with one brand. I firmly believe in synthetic oils after spending time in Minnesota when the temperature dropped to 52 below zero and I had no problem with cold cranking drag on my engine. Most people don’t know, but synthetic oils leak (if you have a leak) a lot worse than conventional oils, which include worn valve seals and external seals. So if you have a high mileage car that uses or leaks, it will get worse.”

Halderman: I, too, have experienced the condition where by changing brands causes oil consumption even though according to Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) standards this should not occur. You are wise to stay with a name brand of oil and change it often.

