

**Wheels:** Bill of Dayton says, “I saw your article recently in the DDN Wheels about a newer car using oil. My 2004 Accord is starting to use to use about a quart a month. It's a four cylinder, 5-speed manual. Is this due to some sort of faulty part or sensor?”

**Halderman:** My first question is what happened or what was done to your car right before it started using oil? Was it in an accident? Was the oil changed? (maybe they used the wrong oil etc.) Is there any visible blue smoke from the exhaust? Are you checking the oil level after it has been stopped for a few minutes? Has it ever had an oil change that was delayed too long? If the last question is the case, maybe the oil drain back holes in the cylinder head are clogged. This would cause the oil to stay and cover the valves, which could be the cause. This is not cheap to fix but a whole lot less than other possible reasons. Try checking the oil level yourself if you can. On level ground, wait about five minutes after shutting off the engine and then pull out the dipstick. Wipe the oil off, using a cloth, and insert the dipstick again all the way and pull it back out. Look to see where the oil level is. If the drain holes are plugged, the oil will not be able to drain back down into the oil pan when you shut it off. Then when the oil the oil is checked, it will show that the level is low when it isn't low because the oil is still inside the engine but has not yet had time to get back into the pan.

