

Wheels: Jerry writes, “Can you give me any idea of what to expect on a Volkswagen diesel in mileage (200,000, 300,000, 400,000)?”

Halderman: Above 100,000 miles almost anything can happen. Engines and transmissions and bearings can fail manly due to metal fatigue. As components work, they exert forces on metal and the metal becomes work hardened. Then, small cracks appear in the hard and brittle metal. Eventually these cracks cause metal to break off in a process called spalling. When this occurs, bearings become noisy. What to do? Continue to service the vehicle regularly, including changing the oil and filter twice a year, as well as the transmission fluid and rear differential fluid as specified by the vehicle manufacturer. In other words, all maintenance should continue as before, such as oil changes every 6 months, etc.

