

Wheels: An e-mail from Irv says, “When I shift into drive first thing in the morning, I have to wait 3 seconds before the transmission will shift into drive. If the car sits for 6 hours, it is slow to shift into drive, but otherwise it works fine.”

Halderman: Being slow to shift into gear is typically caused by wear of the clutch packs inside the transmission. As wear occurs, the apply piston has to travel a greater distance before the clutch discs are fully applied. Several ideas to solve the concern include:

1. Do not do anything. This is the lowest cost option. The transmission may function OK for many years before it gets to the point where it will not engage at all.
2. Change the automatic transmission fluid and filter (if equipped). I would recommend that the fluid be changed because most vehicle manufacturers specify this procedure as part of the preventative maintenance routine.
3. Have the transmission overhauled. While this is the most expensive, this option would be a good one if you plan to keep the vehicle for a long time and you want it to shift properly.

