

**Wheels:** Ed asks, “Can you help with this reducing mileage issue? My 1999 Toyota Corolla is losing about 2.5+ mpg in the 2006-2007 average compared to how it ran in 1999 to 2001. I ran some mild diagnostic checks on the fuel system and the injectors and pump seem to be running the way they should. The spark plugs are two years old, but have only 15,000 miles on them. The tires are worn, but have life well above and beyond the minimum. Can you think of anything that I have missed that would recover the missing fuel mileage?”

**Halderman:** Fuel economy has many variables, so it would be very difficult to track down the root cause. I think there are several possible causes, including:

1. The worn tires have a higher rolling resistance than tires with deeper tread.
2. Weather can also be a factor because the cooler the weather, the lower the fuel economy. Ask any driver of a hybrid vehicle and they will tell you that they can almost tell the outside temperature by looking at the fuel consumption gauge.

What would I do? I would be sure that tires are properly inflated and keep the oil changed. Try a synthetic (SAE 5W-30). I hope this helps.

