

Wheels: Bob from Trotwood writes, “I would like to know what you can put on the bolts of a car wheel to keep them from rusting. It seems after the nut has been on the bolt for six months, it rusts to the point that you cannot loosen it. If you are able to loosen it, you have rounded the nut to the point that it is not reusable. Any ideas?”

Halderman: Most vehicle manufacturers specify that the wheel studs should be clean and dry and that they should *not* be oiled or greased. This is a safety precaution because the last thing you want to occur is the loosening of the wheel lug nuts as the vehicle is being driven. Here is what I suggest – remove the wheels and use a wire brush to thoroughly clean the threads of the wheel studs. Also, clean the lug nut threads or replace the lug nuts if rounded or rusty. Borrow, rent, or purchase a torque wrench that reads 50 to 150 lb-ft. Install the lug nuts and tighten them in a star pattern, first to 20 lb-ft., then to 50 lb-ft., and then to the final torque of 80 to 100 lb-ft. depending on the make and model of vehicle. This procedure should allow easy removal of the lug nuts in the future.

