

Wheels: Marlon wrote, "I'm a 75 year old man who has replaced brake shoes and pads through the years. Now, I have this 2001 Mercury Grand Marquis with antilock brakes with traction control. The car has 22,000 miles and is ready for new pads. Is there anything I should know or do differently on this car than the ones that did not have the ABS with traction control?"

Halderman: ABS includes added sensors and valves to the base brake system. The wheel brakes are the same as a vehicle that does not have ABS. While you could replace the brakes as you have in the past, I question why the vehicle is in need of brakes at such low mileage. Unless the vehicle is used for in-city driving only or has been driven in hilly or mountainous terrain, I would normally expect the brakes to last closer to 50,000 miles or more instead of about half that mileage. If the brakes are in need of replacement at 22,000 miles, there may be a fault in the brake system, such as a stuck caliper(s), that should be investigated and corrected as soon as possible.

