

Wheels: Mike writes, “I have a 1996 Sable with the push button keypad on the exterior of the door. I noticed that the driver’s door was quite a bit stiffer to open than the other 3 doors. I squirted a little bit of WD40 in the opening in the exterior door handle. I opened the door several times and noticed it was opening much easier after oiling the hinges on the exterior door handle. I patted myself on the back. The downside is that the keypad light no longer comes on when the first number on the keypad is punched as in the past. The keypad works, as do the rest of the doors electronic components. I suspect since the keypad is located directly below the door handle that the oil must have gotten on an electrical component that supplies amperage to the keypad for light. How big of a job is it to get to the back of the keypad so that I can clean off any excess oil? If I don’t do anything to try and fix the keypad, what are the chances of the oil damaging something else in the door?”

Halderman: I checked the ford service information and the keypad switch assembly is a unit that is serviced as an assembly. I doubt that you will be able to correct the problem; however, there could be a poor connection causing the light to be out. To gain access to the keypad requires that the interior door panel be removed and often additional components. I suggest that you try to live with the light out to avoid doing harm to other parts or components or see a profession service technician. I doubt the oil would cause harm to other components in the door.

