

**Wheels:** Bob says, “My question may not be the kind of question you want to answer. I have a great problem with all of the lights installed on cars, SUVs and trucks these days. Why do manufacturers install those pesky lights on the bumper or somewhere near the bumper? I have had people tell me that they are fog lights. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Fog lights have an orange/yellow lens – not clear. These lights are just as bright as headlights. In my mind, they should be used “only” as daytime running lights. Then at night, they should be turned off. They can be blinding. Why didn’t the manufacturer make them so that when you turn your head lights on, those other lights go off? I guess most people think they are cool. They “can” shut them off! I always flash my bright lights at these people, but they act just like people do when I turn my lights off/on to tell them they need to turn their lights on – stupid! I would appreciate any comments you have on this subject.”

**Halderman:** I think you are referring to daytime running lights (DRLs) that are used on all General Motors Corp. vehicles since 1994 and newer Toyota and several other makes. These can be very blinding and the government has mandated that these be reduced in intensity. Saturns are most blinding because they wire the high beams in series and even though they are not as bright as the brights, they are still aimed high. Daytime running lights do go out when the headlights are turned on. Fog lights today are not yellow or orange. It was once thought that this color penetrated fog better, but this has been shown not to be the case. Most of these lights are aimed low and should not be blinding. Fog lights are designed to light in front and off to the sides, but do not project far. They are required by federal law to go out when the bright headlights are turned on. Have you noticed some vehicles have very bright rear red “fog” lights? These light the rear of the vehicle whenever the front fog lights are on so drivers can see the rear of a vehicle ahead when driving in foggy weather. Now these really bother me when they are turned on in the daytime in fair weather!

