

**Wheels:** *Louis S. of Tipp City writes by e-mail: “I have a 1993 Ford Taurus, 3.8 liter engine in it. It runs good and has plenty of power. But sometimes after I stop and turn off the engine, the car won't start if I try restarting the car right after I turn the engine off. When this happens, I get no spark and the fuel pump does not kick in to pump gas when I turn on the ignition switch, but the engine turns over but the car won't start. I replaced the fuel pump, ignition control module and fuel pressure regulator and fuel filter. But after I let the car sit a while it will start and run perfect. Why?”*

**Halderman:** While there could be several possible causes of this problem, I always try to check the simple things first. These simple things are usually the lowest cost items too so to me this is the best approach to take. You have verified that you do not have spark or fuel when the engine does not start. This leads me to what controls both systems. The one common component that operates both systems is the main relay. This main relay is located under the hood and varies in location depending on the exact year and model but I think it is located under the plastic cover at the radiator. Check service information for the exact location of the main relay.

Other possible causes include:

1. A defective or intermittent crankshaft position (CKP) sensor
2. A defective or intermittent camshaft position (CMP) sensor
3. A defective or intermittent ignition control module (ICM)
4. A defective or intermittent Powertrain control module (PCM)

If the main relay does not take care of your problem, then I suggest that your vehicle be checked out by a professional service technician who can diagnosis the system and determine the root cause. While this will cost you some diagnostic charges, it is usually less expensive than trying to fix a problem by replacing parts until it is fixed which a very expensive and wasteful approach to troubleshooting.

