

Wheels: Gary of West Carrollton writes by e-mail, “I purchased an in the cabinet air filter for my 2004 Avalanche yesterday. I took the cover that goes over the fan and etc. under the dash on the passenger side. Next I got a flashlight and started looking for the clip which must be released to open a long plastic door so the old filter can be taken out and the new one installed. The only problem is I see no screws or a clip to release the door. As best I can tell, I do not have a door to open and may not have an inside the cabin air filter? I guess I am confused since the parts book at the auto parts store shows I have such an air filter.”

Haldeman: This is a great question because I found many places where the filter is sold, including part numbers and prices on the Internet. I checked service information and did not find any mention of where it is located. However, I did discover a technical service bulletin (TSB) that mentioned that starting in 2003, due to the design of the instrument panel, a cabin air filter is no longer an option. The term used by General Motors Corp. for this filter is “passenger compartment air filter.” Therefore, even though you purchased a cabin air filter listed for your truck, it cannot be used because your vehicle does not have a filter for the cabin air.

Wheels: If a vehicle is equipped with a cabin air filter, how often should it be replaced?

Haldeman: When the cabin air filter is replaced depends on how dusty or dirty the driving conditions. If the vehicle is being driven on dirt roads, replacing the filter every year may be wise. For normal driving conditions, most vehicle manufacturers recommend replacing the filter every two or three years.

For best results, use the style that was used in the vehicle when new. For example, many vehicle manufacturers use a filter that has activated charcoal on the filter to trap odors and fumes. Some less expensive replacement filters do not have this feature. The filter that has the charcoal are not cheap and go for \$30 to \$50.

