

Wheels: An e-mail from Rocky says, “I have been reading your articles in the Dayton Daily and I have a problem worth writing to you about. I have a 1998 Ford Explorer, which has the digital heat control settings. It seems no matter how hot I set the digital reading (up to 90 degrees), I still cannot get any heat through any of the vents/defrost. The vents do supply air sufficiently and the A/C still works up to specs. A friend of mine told me to check the antifreeze, which I found was full. As winter seems to be coming fast upon us, any help you can supply would be most appreciated.

Halderman: Thanks for writing. It is normal for many vehicles to supply warm air to the floor and only about 20% to the windshield unless the selector is in the defrost position. In the defrost position, the percentage changes to 80% warm air to the windshield and only about 20% to the floor.

If you wish warm air to come out of the vents, select air conditioning and simply move the temperature selector to the desired temperature. I do this all the time. Not only does this place warm air directly on me, but it also engages the air conditioning compressor so that the air is first cooled to remove moisture then heated by the heater core. This helps defog the windows. For best fuel economy, keep the selector in the heat position so the air conditioning compressor does not operate. I hope this works for you.

There could also be a fault with the system, specifically one of the HVAC doors that control air flow to the defroster is stuck or inoperative. These doors are operated by either a vacuum diaphragm or a small electric motor. If the above suggestions do not meet your needs as far as heat, consult the dealer or a knowledgeable technician for diagnosis of the system.

