

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Dennis says, “I have a 1998 S-10 truck with a 2.8 V-6 automatic with 65,000 miles. The problem I am having is that the truck is pinging under load like the lifters are rattling. I have used high-test gas and I have gone to different gas stations and it still doesn’t help. The truck starts and shuts off okay. Do you have any suggestions?”

**Halderman:** There are three basic causes of engine ping, also known as spark knock or detonation. The most likely cause is a fault with the exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) valve or clogged EGR passages. Another cause is a lean air/fuel mixture, which is most often caused by a vacuum leak. Check all vacuum hoses for cracks or heat damage. The third most common cause could be created by a clogged radiator or other cooling system fault (when hot).

