

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Bill in Germantown says, “My wife and I enjoy reading your column and appreciate your no-nonsense advice. We have a 2002 Dodge Ram 1500 Sport, small V-8, 4-door, short bed, 4-wheel drive. We tow a travel trailer that weighs 5800 lbs. loaded. I am looking for a little more power for this 1500 Ram for going up hills, such as the Smoky Mountains, the Rockies, etc. We have heard and read about going to synthetic oil, a special air filter, and also a unit called a Power Chip for more horsepower and torque. My questions are: (1) Would you recommend any or all of these to help towing with our Ram? (2) Will any of these add-ons void our warranty? (3) Do you have other suggestions, besides investing in a bigger truck, of course?”

**Halderman:** I think you do need a bigger truck! But if you wish to keep the truck, I would recommend using the high-performance computer from Chrysler designed for your truck along with the recommended cold air intake and low restriction exhaust. This will help a lot but will require the use of premium fuel. These parts will not affect your warranty and they can even be installed at your local dealer. I also recommend that you have a transmission fluid cooler installed. The use of synthetic oil would be good insurance and I would also use synthetic gear lube in the differential, too. Good luck and enjoy your travels.

