

**Wheels:** Gary writes by e-mail, "I generally have not been too receptive to these "CHIP" re-programmers and/or buying enhanced chips, which are supposed to give an engine better power and better MPG. However, I recently observed a Chevy truck with the 5.3L engine I have that was enhanced/re-programmed and it did in fact get better mpg. I am not convinced about the power output. I also saw where other items were reprogrammed, which I did not know could be done. Anyways insights about this area?"

**Halderman:** Great question about "chips." According to the engineers I talked to, they do work to some extent and they state that it "take the engine out of compliance." This means that the exhaust emissions are higher but they would not be noticeable. What I have found that works is to install a "cat back" (all components behind the catalytic converter) low-restriction exhaust and a cold-air induction system. These will cost some money and the noise level will be higher but the fuel economy gains could be 2 or 3 miles per gallon from those who have tried them.

