

**Wheels:** Jim writes, “I have a 2001 Ford Windstar with 3.8 engine with 43,000 miles and the check engine light came on. I changed the oil, checked the gas cap, and changed the air filter and the light stays on. I don’t want to spend \$45 to have it turned off. Can you help?”

**Halderman:** There are 1599 diagnostic trouble codes in a typical 1996 and newer vehicle, which can turn on the light. One of the most common is due to a loose gas cap, which would cause the computer to detect a fuel system leak. Many parts stores, such as AutoZone, will retrieve the trouble code for free. If the code indicates a fuel system leak, tightening the gas cap may be all you will have to do. If the code indicates any other fault, I suggest you see a professional service technician.

