

**Wheels:** Paul of Dayton writes, “I have a 1996 Chevy Tahoe that I bought new. It has 42,000 miles on it. I have had to have 3 fuel pumps replaced: the first pump at 13,071 miles, the second pump at 29,120 miles, and the third pump at 41,950 miles. Fuel pumps seem to last 17 months, 19 months, and 17 months. As of today, I am on my fourth fuel pump. Help! Any ideas would be appreciated.

**Halderman:** Your truck uses a high-pressure fuel pump and while it is not uncommon to have repeated failures, there are several things that an owner can do to help prevent fuel pump damage including:

- Do not drive the vehicle with less than ¼ tank of fuel.
- Do not use any gasoline additives. Many of these additives contain alcohol, which could cause a lack of proper lubrication of the pump motor.

**NOTE:** Electronic fuel pumps that are inside the fuel tank use the liquid gasoline as a lubricant and a coolant.

Replace the fuel filter regularly. A partially clogged fuel filter can cause the pump to work harder getting the fuel from the fuel tank to the engine.

