

**Wheels:** Sam of Middletown states, “I read your column and I wonder if you could help me. I own a ’92 Chevy Lumina 2-door Euro with the 3.1-liter engine. It has nearly 142,000 miles on it. Often when I start “her”, she will die. It’s almost as if she is starved for fuel. (I wonder if there might be a priming issue). If I try again, she will die again, unless I get the RPMs up to 2,000 to 3,000 for several seconds and then let her settle back down to the normal RPMs of around 900. She will then run fine most of the time with an occasional flutter at a traffic light or stop sign. The “flutter” is usually the RPMs dropping from 900 to around 300 and back and forth while it idles. Sometimes it can’t recover from the drop in RPMs and will die.

I’ve had the Service Engine light come on when it idles, but the dealer (yes, I still take it to the dealer) said it was unrelated and changed the IAC module. The light still comes on. What would cause the car to not want to run at first and the RPMs to rise and fall as I’ve described? The weather seems to not matter. It’s been going on for several months and I’m tired of it. I don’t want to invest in a new car right now but I don’t want to dump tons of money into this one.”

**Halderman:** There are several common things that can cause your concern. The easiest is a dirty throttle plate. I would “assume” that the dealer would have cleaned the throttle plate when the IAC was replaced. The other, more expensive, item that can be causing your problems are the fuel injectors. These are pattern failure items on your vehicle. They normally cost about \$100 each (6 X \$100 = \$600) plus labor, so be sure to get them tested. See [www.lindertech.com](http://www.lindertech.com) for the best prices and more information on fuel injectors.

