

Wheels: An e-mail from Brian of West Carrollton says, “I have a 2000 Chevrolet Silverado with the 5.3 Vortec engine. Recently, I have experienced a starting problem. When the engine is cold, it starts just fine. When the engine is warm and I go to start it, it seems to crank for 6 to 8 seconds. I have a friend that works at a parts store that seemed to think it was a crank sensor problem. I replaced the crank sensor and still continue with this problem. Do you have any advice on this problem before I have to take it in?”

Halderman: There are many possible causes but the most common is a leaking fuel pressure regulator. If the regulator is leaking, raw fuel leaks into the intake manifold through the small vacuum hose on the regulator. This extra fuel is not a big problem when the engine is cold because a cold engine needs more fuel to start than a warm engine. However, on a warm engine, the extra fuel from the leaking fuel pressure regulator would cause a temporary flooding condition, thereby more cranking time before the engine starts. To test if this is the cause, simply remove the hose from the regulator with the engine turned off. If you see any gasoline in the hose, the regulator is bad and needs to be replaced. A follow-up message from Brian says, “I just wanted to let you know that I tested the fuel pressure regulator and gas come out of the vacuum line. So I put on a new regulator and have not had any problems. I really do appreciate the help.”

