

Wheels: Alan and Sherry wrote, “We had a strange situation with our 2001 Subaru Outback H6 3.0. One cold morning it would turn over, but it wouldn’t start. Since it was under warranty, we had it towed to the dealer. They told us the car had no compression because too much gasoline entered the cylinders and washed the oil off the cylinder walls. Their repair was to spray oil in the cylinders to get compression back. They told us this happens occasionally and probably will not happen again.

I have some limited mechanical knowledge of the shade tree type and this just sounds like balderdash to me. In my experience, no oil on the walls would cause immediate damage and wouldn’t it take a lot of gas to do this? I suspect there will be future problems as a result of this situation and then the car will be out of warranty. We appreciate your input.”

Halderman: The engine in your vehicle is horizontal and any leakage past the fuel injectors will fill the cylinders with gasoline and cause the problem you described. I also agree that the engine should not be leaking fuel. I suggest that the fuel system be checked for leaks, especially including the fuel injectors and the fuel pressure regulator. A small hole in the rubber diaphragm can cause fuel to flow through the vacuum hose to the intake manifold and then into the cylinders.

