

Wheels: Peter says, “I have a 1991 Ford Explorer (4.0) and at start up when it’s cool out, it stumbles and bumbles (technical terms I’m sure) till I can get the RPMs up. I think it’s the MAF sensor and need to know how it works on the Explorer so I can try and fix it.”

Halderman: There are many possible causes for your engine to run poorly when cold and the MAF, while a possible cause, is an unlikely cause. A vacuum leak or an ignition fault is the more likely cause. You or your service technician can try cleaning the MAF sensor to see if this helps but a dirty MAF sensor usually affects the operation of a warm engine. The sensing wire can get dirty and can be cleaned by removing the sensor and using denatured alcohol and a cotton swab to clean the wire inside being careful not to cause damage. I suggest you have your vehicle checked by a qualified service technician to help avoid the replacement of parts that may not need to be replaced. Paying a diagnostic charge may be your best investment.

