

Wheels: Gary has a question via e-mail about the oxygen sensor on his sport utility vehicle. He replaced it at 90,000 miles according to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended replacement interval. The replacement oxygen sensor caused the vehicle to run rough and hesitate during acceleration. The replacement oxygen sensor was purchased from an automotive parts store and Gary was told that it should work the same as the factory sensor. Do you have any ideas?

Halderman: Because the engine did not run correctly after reinstalling the original oxygen sensor, I think that the replacement sensor was not the correct unit for your vehicle. Most oxygen sensors are constructed with zirconium and can use one, two, three, four, or five wires. Even if your replacement sensor had the correct number of wires and connector size, there still could be a mismatch as to which wire is in which cavity of the connector. I would either keep the original oxygen sensor or replace it with a factory original replacement.

