

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Gary of Dayton asks, “Could the mass air flow (MAF) sensor be causing the rough idle problem? I seem to remember one of my vehicles years back which would not idle right because this sensor, which is always in the air intake hose, was out of spec.”

**Halderman:** A MAF sensor is a possible reason for a rough idle when cold. When the engine warms up the oxygen sensors, there will be a leaner than normal condition and a richer air-fuel mixture creates a smoother idle. The most common problem with a bad MAF sensor is a lack of power, especially under load like climbing a long hill or towing a boat, etc.

You can clean the sensor by first removing the sensor and then using contact spray cleaner or even a brake cleaner on the sensor wires inside. Allow this to dry and reinstall the sensor. There is always the danger of doing harm to the sensor wire during cleaning, so do this with caution.

