

Wheels: An e-mail from a reader says, “I have a 1995 Chevy Z-71 truck with the 5.7 engine. The truck has 175,000 miles on it and except for about the last 25,000 they are all highway miles with no trailers or loads. I change the oil every 5,000 miles regularly and the truck uses just less than a quart between oil changes. Overall the truck runs great, but recently I have noticed some oil on the intake manifold in a puddle right below the throttle linkage. Also there is a slight hesitation in the throttle when you take off. With what little oil it uses, it doesn’t seem like there should be that much blowby. So I would like to know your thoughts on this and if it is from excessive blowby, will it do any harm to the throttle body unit; and if so, can I take the PVC line and direct it to the ground like on diesels to prevent the oil from going through the throttle body? Thank you for your time.

Halderman: Congratulations on getting 175,000 miles on your truck! The oil you are seeing is most likely caused by excessive crankcase pressure. While it could be caused by worn piston rings, the most likely cause is a restriction in the PCV hose or valve. The hose can collapse internally. Replacing this hose may cure the problem. The PCV valve itself should be replaced regularly because the internal spring can lose tension. Another possible fault (and very common) is the PCV vent filter being dirty or partially clogged. Again this filter should be replaced regularly. This filter is located in the air cleaner housing. Do NOT take the PCV valve out of the engine. Not only is this illegal, but this would not correct the cause of the problem. About 20% of the air the engine needs at idle goes through the PCV system.

