

Wheels: Dave says, “I have a 1996 Chevy Monte Carlo with a 3.1 V-6 engine and 107,000 miles. When the temperature is 30°F overnight and I start the car in the morning, the idle sticks at 3,000 RPM and won’t idle down no matter how long the car sits there. If I turn the car off after 5 minutes and restart it, the RPM drops to 1500, which is where I believe it should be on the initial start up. The warmer it is overnight, the lower the RPM, but they are still too high. I’ve replaced the idle air control and that didn’t work. I’ve had the car put on a diagnostic machine and no codes came up. I’ve called GM dealerships and they said they have not heard of this happening on any Monte Carlo’s they have seen. This is driving me nuts. Please send me your expertise before this engine blows up.”

Halderman: It is not normal for the engine to run at 3000 RPM even when commanded by the computer after a cold start. Normal cold idle is about 1200 RPM to 1500 RPM. Because the engine is operating at 3000 RPM indicates that the problem is most likely due to a sticking throttle plate or throttle cable. Has the intake manifold gasket been replaced? If so, General Motors Corp requires that their service technicians replace the throttle cable any time the intake manifold is removed to help avoid this concern. Check that the throttle plate is clean. Another possibility is the minimum air adjusting screw has been adjusted not allowing the idle air control unit to adjust the engine speed.

