

Wheels: An e-mail from JR says, "I recently had a hesitation in acceleration when I pressed on the accelerator on my 1996 Buick Roadmaster. I added a can of fuel injector cleaner to the gas tank, which corrected the problem. Later I mentioned the problem and procedure to the service advisor at a local GM dealer. He indicated that adding the fuel injector cleaner (\$3 to \$5), which is sold at many stores, is harmful to the engine and fuel system, and that I should have purchased the fuel induction service (\$140) to really clean the valves as well. What is your experience or advice?"

Halderman: I recommend that you use Techron twice a year to help keep the induction system clean. This is the only gasoline additive that is approved for use by vehicle manufacturers (Chrysler and BMW) and is available at most automotive parts stores or in the automotive section of discount centers. I do not know what is in the other products and therefore, I cannot say if these are OK to use or not. The service manager is correct because a gasoline additive cannot be made strong enough to clean severe deposits, but it seems as if your vehicle was helped, which means that it was not severe. The dealer cleaning procedure also includes cleaning the throttle body, which can affect idle quality. For the cost difference, I would continue to use Techron gas additive and see the dealer or local shop if this treatment does not solve your driveability concerns.

