

Wheels: An e-mail from Jim says, “My 202 Suburban (1500/4WD, 5.3L V-8) has 53,000 miles. I change the oil every 3,000 miles with Mobil 1 (5W-30). The coolant and transmission has been flushed and the differential oil and battery have been changed. It has been a great vehicle for the past 5 years and has had no problems with it. Should I change the plugs at 60,000? What other maintenance should I follow in the next 25,000 to 50,000 miles and beyond intervals? Are there any reasons I should replace this vehicle when it approaches 100,000 or 200,000?”

Halderman: According to factory information, the spark plugs do not require replacement until 100,000 miles. However, as with all vehicle manufacturers’ specifications, this is the maximum mileage. You can and most likely should replace the spark plugs sooner than the 100,000 mile interval. Be sure to use the factory specified spark plugs to avoid any misfire diagnostic trouble codes from being set. Most experts recommend that a thread chaser be used to clean the threads in the cylinder head before installing new spark plugs. (Do not use a tap as this can cut metal and change the shape of the threads.) According to General Motors, the spark plugs should be installed without using a lubricant or antiseize on the threads. Always tighten the spark plugs to factory specifications using a torque wrench. As per other service, check the owner’s manual and follow the “severe service” recommendations.

