

Wheels: An e-mail from Boyd says, “My 1987 Cadillac Eldorado with a front-wheel-drive V-8 has started popping through the throttle body when leaving a traffic light or just in the driveway when giving the car gas. If the car is idling or accelerating gradually, the popping does not occur. I’ve replaced the spark plugs, distributor cap, and rotor, but still have the popping through the throttle body. Your thoughts would be appreciated.”

Halderman: A backfire is almost always due to a lean mixture. A vacuum leak is the most likely cause, although it could be caused by an engine mechanical problem as well. I suggest that you have the engine diagnosed by a profession to help avoid replacing parts that may not be needed. A leaking throttle-body base gasket is a common cause of a vacuum leak.

