

Wheels: Gary of Dayton writes that he is looking to purchase a newer pickup truck and has it narrowed down to a used Chevrolet Avalanche. “I sometimes tow a boat and need a locking-type differential or a four-wheel version. I really don’t want to purchase a four-wheel drive because of the lower fuel economy from carrying the extra weight around due to the four-wheel drive components, such as the transfer case and front differential. My question is how can I tell if the rear differential is a limited-slip design?”

Halderman: Good question and it is possible to determine what features a vehicle has but it takes a lot of work and some money. In the case of your Chevrolet Avalanche, General Motors places a sticker in the glove compartment that lists all of the regular production order (RPO) items that are included on the truck when it was built. For example, the item listed as “G80” indicates a “Positraction Limited Slip” rear axle. This is the code that you need to check when looking for a truck. Other RPO codes for this vehicle include GU4 (3.089 axle ratio), GT4 (3.73 axle ratio), and KC4 (engine oil cooler).

