

Wheels: Elbert writes, “I have white smoke coming from the exhaust pipe when my van sits for awhile, and it is most noticed when it sits overnight. It uses very little oil, no water, or transmission fluid. It has about 95,000 miles on it with a 4.3 liter V-6. I think it is condensation in the exhaust, or is it fuel related?”

Halderman: The 4.3 liter V-6 has a pattern failure for worn valve stem seals, which would cause some smoke to come from the tailpipe at startup only. This amount of oil usage is usually not detected on the dipstick as using oil. While it could be just the normal moisture created by combustion (about one gallon of water is produced when one gallon of gasoline is burned), the most likely cause is due to the valve seals.

