

Wheels: An e-mail from Tom says, “I have a 2002 Buick LeSabre with current mileage of 61,000 miles. I’m about to have my 60,000 mile servicing and I’m somewhat confused about when to have the transmission flushed. It is not part of the regular items scheduled at 60,000 miles. The manufacturer does not appear to be too clear on exactly when this service should be completed. I drive around 15,000 miles a year and I do drive in Dayton, so there is city-type stop-and-go driving. I would appreciate any suggestions you could provide regarding flushing the transmission.”

Halderman: I agree that General Motors Corp. does not recommend a routine automatic transmission change or flush. However, I believe that maintenance can be performed more often than specified by the vehicle manufacturer, but not less often. Therefore, I would recommend that the automatic transmission fluid be changed or flushed regularly, and 60,000 miles seems like a logical interval. I prefer machines that simply replace the fluid with new fluid while the engine is running, using the pump in the automatic transmission to move the fluid through the cooler lines to the exchange machine, having fresh fluid returned to the transmission. While the cost of this service could exceed \$100.00, I believe it is a worthwhile investment in the life of your vehicle.

