

Wheels: Paul writes by e-mail, “I have a 1998 Chevrolet Astro van and the inside dome lights won't go out. All of the door jam switches checked okay. I even unhooked all of them and the dome lights stayed on. I replaced the light selector switch on the dash and that didn't help. Normally, the lights stay on for 5-10 seconds after the door closes. I can hear the click when the lights are supposed to go out, but they don't. What device turns off these lights and where is it located? What else do you recommend?”

Halderman: I thought that this could be a normal operation of the interior lights and is a common feature used in newer vehicles. This feature is often called “theater lighting” where the interior lights will stay on for a short time and then dim until they go out. I checked service information on your vehicle and the interior lights are being controlled by an electronic module called the “interior light control module.” This module is under the left side of the dash and is attached to the data link communications connector bracket. The interior lights are designed to remain on for 40 seconds after the doors are closed. Because the control is run through the module, there is no practical way to work around this module. The remote keyless entry (RKE) also uses this module to turn on the interior lights when the doors are unlocked.

Therefore, if the lights never turn off, the interior light control module is the most likely cause.

