

Wheels: Al writes by e-mail, "I have a 2001 Ford Ranger with 3.0 engine, and it has 87,000 miles on it. My problem is that the "check engine" light keeps coming on. I have contacted several different mechanics and when they check it with their computers, it show the EGR valve as being the problem, but it isn't because they find that as being okay. The tube from the EGR to the exhaust keeps clogging up. I clean it and the light goes off for approximately 35-50 miles, and then it comes back on and needs to be cleaned again. I have put new plugs and wires on it but it has not helped. The shops have no idea what is causing this to happen and the truck runs fine. There has to be some kind of a problem and I just wondered if you could help me."

Halderman: The EGR valve is fed exhaust gases from the exhaust manifold. The exhaust gases pass through the EGR valve and then through small passages in the throttle plate area. From your description of the problem, the diagnostic code is most likely indicating a lack of proper flow through the EGR system. I believe that cleaning the passage between the EGR valve and the exhaust manifold either causes some of the deposits elsewhere to loosen or does not help at all. The code sets after the computer performs a test of the system and this would explain why the check engine light does not come on right away. I suggest removing the throttle body from the intake manifold and cleaning the passages. This should take care of your problem.

