

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Rich reads, "I read your column in Wheels every week. We have a 1995 Ford Windstar with 120,000 miles, and the 3.8L engine was replaced due to head gasket problems at 99,000 miles. The engine has developed a rough idle condition during warm up that has me stumped. After a couple minutes, the engine idle starts to vary in RPMs, stalls occasionally, and then runs fine after 5-7 minutes. No fault codes are tripped. So far, the following has been changed: EGR control and vacuum hoses, the coolant sensor, the idle control unit, the MAP sensor, the throttle position sensor, and fuel filter. The main injection butterfly valve was thoroughly cleaned. The problem still exists, although the stalling is less frequent. I have bumped up the idle speed to compensate. Even when the rough idle is occurring, acceleration is smooth...only when returning to idle does it get rough again. Once the engine reaches normal operating temp, the idle is smooth. My daughter drives the car and I don't want it stalling at intersections. I appreciate any help you can provide.

**Halderman:** You indicated that the idle control unit was replaced and by that I am assuming that the idle air control (IAC) was replaced. It is often a problem if the passages to the IAC aren't cleaned and/or the idle has not been learned by the computer. I would try this just to be sure:

1. Disconnect the negative battery cable from the battery.
2. Get into the vehicle and depress the brake pedal.
3. The computer memory should reset.
4. Reconnect the battery cable and then start the engine and all allow it to idle for about 10 minutes.

During this time, the idle speed may be uneven and may increase or decrease but this is how the computer relearns the idle.

If this procedure does not correct the problem, then further diagnosis is needed.

