

# UNDER THE HOOD

## WITH THE MOTOR MEDICS

Dear Motor Medics

I would like to upgrade from a Geo Metro to a 4 cylinder automatic. I am thinking a Toyota Corolla or Honda Civic, and would like to know if parts & repairs more expensive than a domestic car like say a Cavalier? I love the show and listen each week.

Brad in Canton, SD.

Thank you for listening Brad. If you upgrade to one of the many four cylinder vehicles in the smaller size range you should not have a huge change in repair costs between foreign and domestic. These cars are so popular that parts are readily available at local parts stores. If you shop wisely you should be able to find a four cylinder that get mileage into the high thirties as well.

Thank you, take care, Russ.

Dear Motor Medics

I am looking for a back to school car for my daughter who will drive it from Sioux Falls to Vermillion each week. I want something reliable but as new as possible, and cheap! I would like to find something that will last four years, what do you suggest? I love the show, I listen online each week on KELO 1320 am.

Sandra, Sioux Falls

Thank you for listening Sandra. If you want cheap and reliable then I would go for a car that is not the prettiest but is newer with less miles. A dented car will go just as far as one that is not dented and cost you less. Look for a low mile car that has seen some minor damage. It needs to be structurally sound and safe but a few dings and dents like hail damage can save you hundreds if not more

on a car. You can get a lower mile car that is more reliable for less money. Use your own judgment and stand back a few feet to see what you think. I'll take function over beauty any day.

Thank you, take care, Russ

Dear Motor Medics

I have a 2000 GMC K1500 truck that is hard to start when warm. When the truck is cold it starts right up, but if I drive it for 10 miles and shut it off it for more than a few minutes it cranks for almost 10 seconds before it fires. If I hold it to the floor or re-crank right away it always starts. What could it be and could it be real expensive? I love the show, I listen each week on KIWA in Sheldon, Iowa. Keep up the great work guys!

Thanks, Dan in Sheldon, Iowa

Dan, thank you for listening. I think your problem is related to the fuel pressure regulator. If the regulator is leaking into the vacuum line then you will have a hard re-start only after a short drive and then a short rest period. In fact it may even start quicker when cold. The repair is usually less than \$150.00 as well.

Thanks for listening, take care, Russ.

*Advice given by the Motor Medics is for use as a guide to repair. Always check with your favorite repair shop for verification. The motor medics have been operating a repair shop and answering questions on the air for 19 years. Russ is an ASE Master Certified Technician with extensive dealer and aftermarket training. Shannon is an ASE Certified Parts Specialist with more than 30 years in the automotive world. You can ask a question of The Motor Medics by going to [help@underthehoodshow.com](mailto:help@underthehoodshow.com) we will answer your question on line and you may see it appear in this publication. The Under The Hood Show can be heard each week on local stations with coverage reaching 7 states and on [www.underthehoodshow.com](http://www.underthehoodshow.com). Go to [Underthehoodshow.com](http://Underthehoodshow.com) to find one near you. TMM*

