

UNDER THE HOOD

WITH THE MOTOR MEDICS

Hi guys,

I am needing "experts" for my F250 diesel 2003 4WD with 40,000 miles. Can you help me regarding "road wonder". When I first bought it (used) my wife would not even drive as you had to keep moving the steering wheel to keep it on the road. I have two dealers work on doing: 1. adjust/check front end toe, chamfer, joints, linkage. (no parts replaced) 2. Steering gear backlash adjusted (dealer said) 3. Stabilizer kit installed on front linkage (helped the most). The other did nothing. 4. Tires are original and I moved front to rear and air pressure to 60 psi. This may of helped also but very little. The truck still does not drive like it should. It's like it follows grooves in the road. You have to work the steering wheel back and forth although not excessively, but is annoying. Do you have any additional suggestions?

Thank you so much!!

Wally Holter, Billings, MT.

Thanks for listening Wally. As with many trucks on the road today they all have a steering shaft that connects the column to the gear box. This shaft is known to wear and cause this very issue. Open the hood and have someone turn the column about one inch side to side. If the wheel moves more than the connector at the gear box you need it replaced right away. If the shaft gets as loose as it is now it is dangerous to drive. Take care, Russ

2005 Ford Focus - The Check Fuel Cap light came on during a recent trip to Minneapolis. There doesn't seem to be anything obviously wrong with the cap but the light is staying on. Any ideas what the problem might be?

Regards, Scott in Sioux Falls

Thank you for your question Scott. All vehicles built after 1996 have a system which checks the fuel tank for leaks. This system applies vacuum to the tank and then checks for its ability to hold the vacuum. If there is a leak such as a loose fuel cap, the test will fail and a code will set in the computer memory. Since the most common failure is the driver not completely tightening the fuel cap many manufactures have designed the system to turn on a "check fuel cap" light on the dash. Check your cap by turning it until it clicks twice. If the light still comes on see any ASE certified repair shop to diagnose the system. This code will not affect the performance of the vehicle but will keep that annoying light on until the system is repaired. 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 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. Go to Underthehoodshow.com to find one near you.



with Shannon Nordstrom and Russ "The Super Tech" Evans

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