

Section 1: 2004–2008 Concerns

The Triton V8's spark plugs can blow out or snap, leaving debris that causes misfires. Timing chains and cam phasers tick on cold start—a red flag for chain stretch and engine damage. Transmission clunks between gears signal clutch-pack fatigue.

Frame rails and cab corners rust deeply, often masked by surface paint. Exhaust-manifold leaks show as soot rings and ticking under load. Electrical gremlins can kill the instrument cluster or disable accessories without warning.

Concern	How to Check	Warning Sign	✓
Spark Plug Blowouts	Cold-start; listen for misfires/backfires	Abrupt misfires or popping sounds in exhaust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timing Chain / Cam Phaser Rattle	Key-on, engine off; ear at front of the head	Sharp, repetitive ticking at low RPM	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transmission Slipping or Harsh Shifts	Test-drive: accelerate 1→2, then downshift 3→2	Delayed engagement, slippage, hard “clunk”	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frame-Rail & Cab-Corner Rust	Visually inspect undercarriage; probe weld seams	Deep pits, bubbled metal, repair-weld beads	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exhaust Manifold Leaks	Run to operating temperature; listen around cylinder heads	Soot rings, ticking noise under the hood	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical Gremlins / Dead Cluster	Cycle all gauges, switches, windows, wipers	Flickering/frozen needles, inoperative modules	<input type="checkbox"/>