

**Wheels:** Bob says, “I have a 1994 Mercury Sable with a Vulcan 3L. For the past three years, the car will “thump” through the floorboard/firewall after it is fully warmed up (mostly noticeable at idle). I have not been able to find an exhaust leak that could cause this. Last year the thermostat failed (in the partially open position) and the problem went away for 3 months until I replaced the thermostat and the problem came right back. I was certain that it was caused by air trapped in the cooling system. All attempts to purge this air have failed (I left the radiator cap loose while running, which is the factory manual method). I also took the return hose (from the heater core) located at the water pump, opened it up and used a cooling system pressure tester to force coolant/air out.”

**Haldeman:** Getting trapped air out of a cooling system is difficult to remove, especially on front-wheel-drive vehicles like your Mercury Sable. One method that seems to work is to remove all of the coolant and apply a vacuum to the entire cooling system. Once all of the air has been purged from the system, fresh coolant can be added back into the cooling system. Ask around for a dealer or shop that has this equipment.

