

Wheels: An e-mail from Michelle says, "I have a 2001 Oldsmobile Alero and when I am driving on the highway, any where between 60-75 MPH, the steering wheel will vibrate rapidly and the mirrors vibrate a little as well. (I never notice the vibration at all under 60 MPH or so.) When I accelerate over 75 and up the vibration stops and it is a smooth ride. It only has about 12,000 miles on it, but it did it when I first got it at 5,000 miles. Do you have any thoughts on what may be causing the vibration? It is more annoying than anything. P.S. The gentleman I bought it from took it back to the dealership when he first got it and had them put on a brand new set of tires because he too, felt the vibration.

Halderman: There are many items that can cause the vibration you mentioned including (as you know) the tires. If they are not balanced correctly they can cause a vibration. For the moment, I am going to assume that the tires have been checked and balanced. First, the engine could have a bad or collapsed mount that is transmitting engine vibrations into the vehicle. Second, the exhaust could be at fault if a vibration damper is not correctly located on the system or has been knocked out of location due to running over a curb or similar incident.

If both of these check out, then I would have the front tires checked again. If the steering wheel vibrates or you see the dash or hood vibrate, then the problem is likely the front tires. If the vibration feels as if it is all over the entire vehicle or if you feel the vibration in the seat of your pants while driving, the rear tires are at fault. I hope this information helps.

