

Wheels: Billy of Englewood wrote, “I have a 2002 GMC half-ton pickup with a 5.3 liter engine that produces 285 horsepower. When I tow my fifth-wheel trailer, I have a vibration or shuddering when I first take off in low gear. The trailer has a gross vehicle weight of 6800 pounds. After I get up to speed, all is OK. I talked to a General Motors Corp. representative and he said with the extra weight at the hitch – 870 pounds – this throws the two-piece drive shaft into a different position and is nothing to worry about.

Halderman: The General Motors Corp. representative is correct. While there have been many similar problems in the past, General Motors Corp. has revised the splines and the driveshaft components to reduce this concern. I think that the extra weight on the rear of the truck is the root cause. If the situation gets worse, you may want to consider adding extra load support springs or air bags to the rear suspension to reduce the change in the angle of the driveshaft.

