

Wheels: MH of Cincinnati writes, “My 1992 Mazda MPV minivan (with 137,000 miles) occasionally makes an odd noise that has me worried. It’s a fairly loud dull ‘thunk’ sound that seems to come from under the vehicle. It sounds like someone just gave a single hard swift kick to the underneath of the minivan. Many thanks for any advice!”

Halderman: It sounds as if the drive shaft spines are binding and then releasing, causing the thunk sound. This condition is called “spline bind” and is corrected by having a technician remove the drive shaft and applying high-temperature grease or special spline grease to the splines in the yoke of the drive shaft. The drive shaft is then reinstalled and the noise should not occur.

