

Wheels: An e-mail from Irene says, “My car has 51,000 miles on it and my husband would like to get me a newer car. I love the car and don't want to part with it. Lately, however, when I turn the heat on, there is a terrible screeching noise coming from what I imagine is the blower fan. If I leave it on for a few seconds and then turn it off and on again, sometimes the noise will stop. Sometimes not. I can leave it alone for awhile and then start again turning it off and on and eventually it will run with no noise. It also did this same thing a few times last summer with the air conditioner. My question to you is: Am I harming the heater fan in any way? Does this sound like a serious problem or is there something that just needs to be oiled/lubricated?”

Halderman: Your noise concern is likely exactly what you thought- a bad blower motor. The bushings cannot be lubricated and the only repair is replacement of the motor. I checked service information and found that it is located behind the glove box behind the dash on your vehicle. The cost involved in a replacement blower motor will likely be about \$100 with another \$100 in labor. I suggest that you have the motor replaced because the extra drag on the motor could cause the blower motor resistors to fail, thereby increasing the cost of repair. In severe cases, the motor will stop working entirely, which is not a nice thing to have happen in very cold weather.

