



ASK THE MOTOR MEDICS®

*Automotive Advice from
the Under The Hood® Show*

Dear Motor Medics,

I am having trouble with my 2001 Buick Lesabre. For the past few weeks I have not been able to adjust my inside temperature properly. When I first start the car and whenever I adjust the temperature controls, I hear a clicking under the center of the dash that last about ten seconds. It started as a once a week thing but now happens every time. Since this started happening the temperature seems to either stick on full hot or full cold. The car has adjustments for both driver and passenger side temperature and both sides cause the noise when adjusted.

Thank you,
Susan in Vandalia

Dear Susan,

The noise is likely coming from the temperature blend door motors. The temperature is adjusted by means of electric motors with gears connecting them to the temperature doors. The climate module measures the temperature of the air and the setting on the dash and adjusts the motors as needed. With age the sensors that report the position of the motors wear out and when the door reaches full hot or cold the module tells them to keep going and you hear the sound of the gears as they are pushed too far. If you find that this is the problem the fix is to replace the actuator motor. Some motors can be accessed under dash while others require more extensive disassembly. Most new blend door motors are affordable, used are also a good option.

Take care,
the Motor Medics.

Dear Motor Medics,

My new job has taken me to an unfamiliar city hundreds of miles away from home where I don't know anyone. I have a good running car but I owe that to the great care that my repair shop has given me over the years. It's a 2005 Taurus with 98,000 miles. This car has not needed any major repairs in the past but on the way across country the air conditioner stopped working. I can live without air for a short time but I want to get it fixed. How can I find a good shop? I am afraid to just walk into the first shop I see. I am a young woman that knows little about cars so I need some guidance. Can you give me a suggestion on how to find a shop in an unfamiliar town?

Thank you,
Mary in Denver

Dear Mary,

Many people find themselves in this situation. Maybe it's a child who has moved for school needing a good shop for repairs. Hopefully you will have contact with people you can trust when you arrive. Ask them where they go then narrow the shops down to just a few by the ones with the best word of mouth reviews. Then maybe visit the shop for an oil change and ask the other customers waiting how they like the shop. If you don't like what you hear try another. It's a little like finding a doctor.

Take care,
the Motor Medics.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY

*Always consult your local shop and follow
all safety procedures before repairs.*

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