

## UNDER THE HOOD: Demystifying How Your Vehicle Works

# 10 Sounds That Might Signal Trouble



Just like a song, the sounds your car makes can either be music to your ears or strike a wrong chord. Knowing what to listen for can help you tune into trouble that needs attention from a mechanic. To follow is a helpful list of possible problem sounds and what might be causing them.

- 1. Rur, Rur, Rur-ing When Starting the Engine** - You might hear this sound if your car's battery is nearing its end and struggling to power the engine.
- 2. Whistling From Under the Hood** - Whistling noises that happen while running your engine might indicate the hoses going to your car's engine have cracks. The sound you hear is air "whistling" through the holes.
- 3. Clanging and Clunking** - A clunking noise as you go over bumps could be a sign of something serious (like a suspension issue) or not-quite-so-serious (like a loose muffler or tailpipe).
- 4. Brakes That Squeal, Growl, or Grind** - A squealing noise might be a symptom that brake pads or brake shoes have worn down and will need to be replaced soon. Especially get to a mechanic quickly if you hear growling or grinding because it may be that your brakes and pads are "metal to metal." That could cause serious safety issues!
- 5. Thudding Tires** - Thudding noises coming from below your vehicle could mean your car's tires are low on air pressure or that they're out of alignment.
- 6. Hissing** - "Ssssssss." If you hear a similar sound coming from your engine, particularly if it continues even after you turn off your car, the radiator's rubber gasket seal might have broken, allowing air to leak from it.

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### THE WEIRDEST STATE TRAFFIC LAWS

- **Arizona** – It’s against the law to drive a car in reverse on a public road
- **Arkansas** – Don’t honk your car horn anywhere that serves cold drinks or sandwiches after 9 p.m.
- **California** – It’s against the law for women to drive in a housecoat
- **Florida** – By law, you must feed the parking meter if you tie an elephant, goat or alligator to it
- **Georgia** – It’s illegal to spit from a car or bus, but it’s OK to spit from a truck
- **Michigan** – It’s against the law to sit in the middle of the street and read a newspaper
- **Texas** – You must have windshield wipers to register a car, although having a windshield is optional
- **Utah** – By law, birds have the right of way on all highways
- **West Virginia** – It’s legal to eat road kill

From <https://blog.nationwide.com/weird-traffic-laws-by-state/>

## CAUTION: Wearing Headphones While Driving May Cause (Legal) Headaches

We have a “sound” theme throughout this newsletter. For a good reason; it’s in tune with keeping drivers safe and in compliance with PA State’s rules of the road. I’ve found that many people aren’t aware of Pennsylvania’s laws regarding headphone use. So, I thought it would be helpful to give an overview of what the State says is allowed and where to find additional information.

### Pennsylvania’s Dos and Don’ts of Headphones

Our State’s “Prohibiting Use of Hearing Impairment Devices” law (Title 75, Section 3314) prohibits drivers from wearing headphones or earbuds that cover both ears when operating a motor vehicle. The law does allow drivers to use cell phone headsets, earbuds, and Bluetooth devices that cover just one ear. However, the State says that drivers must be able to hear traffic and other surrounding sounds outside of their vehicle with their other ear.



Here’s what the PA Department of Transportation explains on its website regarding exceptions — to Title 75 Section 3314, “Exception.— This section does not prohibit use of hearing aids or other devices for improving the hearing of the driver, nor does it prohibit the use of a headset in conjunction with a cellular telephone that only provides sound through one ear and allows surrounding sounds to be heard with the other ear, nor does it prohibit the use of communication equipment by the driver of an emergency vehicle or by motorcycle operators complying with section 3525 (relating to protective equipment for motorcycle riders).”

### Ignoring the Law Could Cost You

If drivers violate the headphone law, their wallets could take a hit. Besides the fines for disobeying PA’s headphone law, additional fees, court costs, and surcharges could drive the costs even higher. Plus, there are the risks of demerit points on a person’s driving record, lawsuits, and possible jail time, depending on the circumstances.

When in doubt about the laws you must follow, reach out to your local and state law enforcement agencies or an attorney for clarification. **PJ**

## 10 Sounds That Might Signal Trouble (con’t)

**7. Humming or Howling** - This could be a sign that wheel bearings (small metal balls that help parts rotate smoothly) are having issues. In front-wheel-drive vehicles, if the sound changes as you turn the wheel left and back again, there’s a good chance it’s the front-wheel bearings that are the cause. In rear-wheel-drive vehicles, if the howling grows gradually and then remains steady, it may be your rear-wheel bearings that are amiss.

Keep in mind that other problems can cause humming or howling, too. For example, the differential (which enables powered wheels to turn at different speeds) may need lubricant or the transmission is beginning to fail.

**8. Squealing When Starting Up** - This symptom might mean your car’s accessory belts (such as those that drive the air-conditioning compressor, power-steering pump, or alternator, etc.) or serpentine belt (which powers multiple systems) are worn, cracked, or loose.

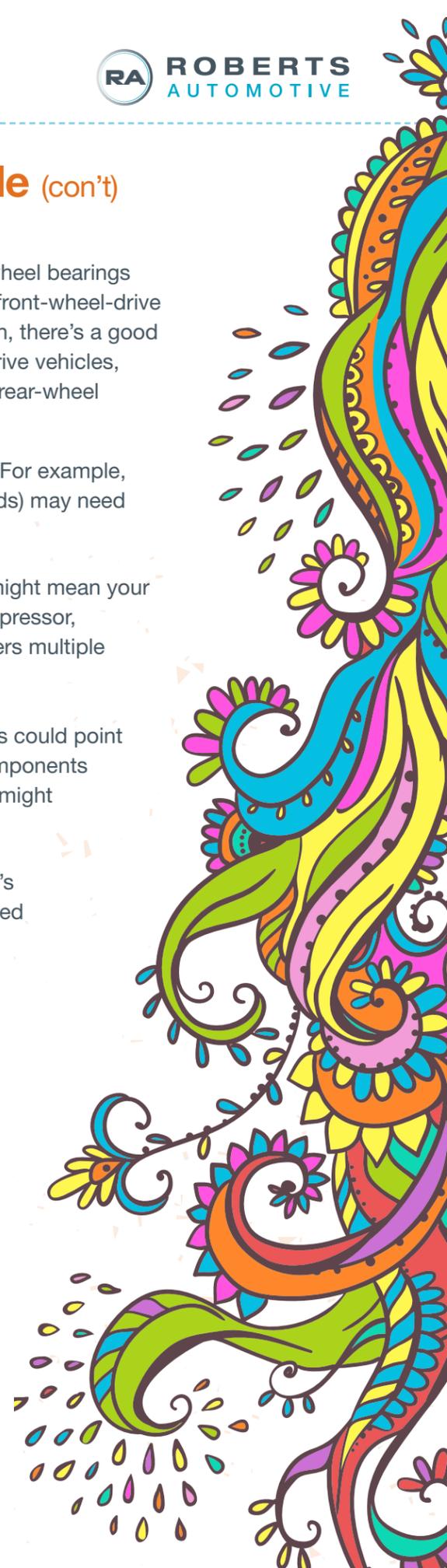
**9. Rattling or Chugging** - Rattling or chugging sounds could point to a problem in the exhaust system. Rattling might indicate that the components (such as exhaust joints and the muffler) fell out of alignment. Chugging might indicate a blockage in your car’s exhaust system.

**10. Idling Issues** - Uneven idling may mean one of your car’s sparkplugs (which ignite the fuel in your car’s engine) has shorted, burned out, or broken.

Loud idling (and/or knocking) could be a sign that excess pressure is building up in the cylinder, which can damage your car’s engine if ignored.

## Listen Closely and Don’t Take Chances

These 10 sounds are just a sampling of the “music” you might hear coming from your vehicle. Whenever you’re in doubt that a noise is normal, it’s best not to take any chances. Contact us! We’re here to help give you peace of mind and fix any problems before they become major issues.





- 12 lasagna noodles
- 3 c cooked chopped chicken
- 1 T olive oil, or more as needed
- 2 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 1/2 large onion, finely chopped
- 2/3 c buffalo wing sauce
- 1/2 c blue cheese or shredded cheddar
- 1 (16 oz.) ricotta cheese
- 1 c blue cheese or ranch dressing
- 1 egg
- 1 (8 oz.) shredded mozzarella

**Directions:**

- Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook lasagna noodles in the boiling water until tender yet firm, about 8 mins. Drain.
- Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium heat; cook and stir celery and onion until just starting to soften, about 5 mins.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Combine onion mixture and chicken in a bowl; add about 1/3 the buffalo sauce and blue cheese or cheddar.
- Mix ricotta, egg, blue cheese dressing (or ranch dressing) and remaining buffalo wing sauce in a separate bowl; season with salt and cayenne pepper to taste
- Spread a layer of ricotta mixture in the bottom of a 9 x 13 in. baking dish; top with a layer of 3 noodles. Spread 1/4 of the remaining ricotta mixture over noodle layer;

- top with 1/3 the chicken mixture, and 1/4 the mozzarella. Layer 3 lasagna noodles over cheese layer and repeat layering 2 times more ending with a layer of ricotta mixture and mozzarella.
- Bake in the preheated oven until cooked through and top is lightly browned, about 45 - 60 mins. Cool lasagna at least 20 mins before cutting.

**Cooks Notes:**

- See alternatives if your family does not like blue cheese
- You may wish to cover the dish with aluminum foil for the first 30 mins to prevent excess browning
- Can be refrigerated or frozen to bake later. Will need to adjust cooking times.

*Adapted from allrecipes.com*

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