



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100147

Date Received: 2003 AUG 26 01-AUG-2003
Repository:
Reference No.: 10031795

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted]
City: HYDE PARK State: MA Zip Code: [Redacted]

Daytime Telephone Number: [Redacted] E-mail Address: [Redacted]
Evening Telephone Number: [Redacted]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? YES NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.
Signature of Owner: _____ Date: _____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number located at bottom of windshield on driver's side: 1B7GG22Y7XS275615
Make: DODGE Model: DAKOTA Model Year: 1999
Date Purchased: 4/6/99 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number: NORWOOD DODGE (617) 762-9110
Original Owner: Dealer's City: NORWOOD, MA State: MA Zip Code: 02066 Engine: V8 Fuel Type: GASOLINE
Transmission Type: AUTO Antilock Brakes: Powertrain Cruise Control: 5.2L 4X4 (Airt-Tone)
Vehicle Component Code: 021540-SUSPENSION:FRONT:CONTROL ARM:LOWER BALL JOINT
Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s): 25-MAY-2003 Failure Mileage: 11,350 Failure Speed: N/A
AT 4,350 MILES BOTH LOWER AND 1 UPPER BALL JOINTS FAILED WHILE DRIVING. ALL 4 JOINTS DAMAGED WITH CHRYSLER PARTS.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make: _____ Tire Model (Name or Number): _____ Tire Size (Example P215/65R15): _____
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036): _____ Original Equipment Prior Repair Failure Location: _____
Tire Component Code: _____ Tire Failure Type: _____

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make: _____ Date Manufactured: _____ Model No./Name: _____
Seat Type: _____ Installation System: _____
Child Seat Component Code: _____ Failed Part: _____

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), condition(s), and injury(ies).)

Crash: Yes No Fire: Yes No
Number of Persons Injured: _____ Number of Deaths: _____ Reported to Police: N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).
Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e., parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

CONSUMER STATES THAT LOWER BALL JOINT IS WEARING PREMATURELY. *AK BOTH LOWER AND 1 UPPER BALL JOINTS FAILED STATE MSP. - AND DODGE MSP - REPAIRED ALL 4 JOINTS W/ CHRYSLER PARTS - TOTAL MILEAGE WAS 11,350 - I HAVE SPENT TO SERVICE MANAGE AT DEALERSHIP AND THIS IS A COMMON PROBLEM - THE BALL JOINTS ONLY SEEM TO LAST ABOUT 4 YRS - AND COMPANY WILL NOT GO MORE THAN 50-60K - ALSO YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING IS THAT THE DAKOTA AND DURANGO HAVE THE SAME FRONT ENDS USING THE SAME BALL JOINTS - ALSO THERE IS AN ENTRY ON THE DODGE DAKOTA WEB SITE FROM A PERSON CLAIMING TO BE A CHRYSLER ENGINEER - DESIGNING NEW BALL JOINTS BACK IN 2001 - (OVER)

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Reports, Photos, and Repair Involes. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY.

The Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies)

See the following web page for info - <http://www.dotdodge.com/boards/vr/2401.html>

Also in the 4 yrs I owned this truck - the average gas mileage was 10-11 MPG - since the ball joints have been replaced I am now getting 15-16 MPG.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

U.S. Department of Transportation

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400 Seventh St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business Penalty for Private Use \$300



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U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-216
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590



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DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS
COMPLETE THIS FORM
OR

DASH2DOT

and dial toll free at

1-888-DASH-2-DOT

1-888-327-42

DOT Auto Safety H.
(DASH) 2 DOT



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<http://www.safercar.gov>