

**Wheels:** Gary of Hamilton says, “My father owns a 2004 Pontiac Vibe 4-cylinder with only 2500 miles on it, which he purchased new. He states that sometime after the first 500 miles, he noticed water coming out of his exhaust pipe and notices water in his garage underneath where the car is parked. He has also noticed a hole rusted in his muffler. He has asked the Pontiac dealer several times what could be causing this, but gets a different answer each time. I suspect they are giving him the run around and he gets tired of asking. Could you advise what could be causing this and what he should do about it. One of the answers he received from the dealer was that he doesn’t drive the car enough.”

**Halderman:** I would tend to agree with the dealer that the vehicle is not being driven very far. Every gasoline engine creates about 1 gallon of water for every gallon of gasoline that is burned. Normally, this water is in the form of water vapor and is not visible. However, if the vehicle is not driven enough to fully warm the exhaust system, then the water vapor condenses in the cool exhaust system creating the water that you see dripping from the tailpipe. The “rusted hole” in the muffler is actually a drilled hole to allow any condensed water to escape so that it does not cause the muffler to rust. To summarize, there is nothing wrong with the vehicle and everything you mentioned is normal. It would help to drive the vehicle about 20 miles or more once in a while to help evaporate any water that is still in the exhaust system.

