

Wheels: Mike from Ohio says, “My 2001 PT Cruiser chrome wheels seem to lose air all on their own. The car and original Goodyear tires have 38,000 miles on them, and I have to put about 5 to 7 pounds of air in each of them every week. My local Goodyear tire dealer says that the chrome around the safety bead is probably chipped and that is where the air is leaking out. They say that is a common problem with the Chrysler chrome wheels. Do you believe any of this? Do you think I have any recourse with either Chrysler or Goodyear? My Goodyear dealer has cleaned the wheels (safety bead) and put a sealer on them, but this has not helped. Help!”

Halderman: This problem is common on chrome-plated wheels and not just on Chrysler products. I had an import vehicle with chrome wheels and, while I only had problems with one of the wheels, it is frustrating to have to check and inflate your tires every week. Several causes include a poor seal around the bead, but that seems to be taken care of by the dealer. The wheels could have porosity (small holes) in the aluminum alloy. The tires could be a problem because the vehicle is about 4 to 5 years old and with 38,000 miles and I would think that they are near the end of their normal life. Several vehicle manufacturers are now recommending that any tire that is six years old or older be replaced regardless of the tread depth simply because of normal deterioration that occurs with age. I don't have any other suggestions, except to replace the tires.

