

Wheels: *Dr. P. from Centerville asks: “I keep a 2004 Chrysler Sebring convertible at my vacation place. At the beginning of the summer, the car would not start so I had it jump started by AAA. The tow truck driver suggested that I replace the battery because it was eight years old and likely at the end of its useful service. I did have the battery replaced and then the next time I visited my vacation home, the battery was dead even though it had been just a couple of weeks. Do you think the new battery is defective? Any suggestions would be appreciated”.*

Halderman: There are a couple of possible reasons for the dead battery including:

1. **The new battery is defective**-while this is not very common, it is possible that the new battery had been on the shelf for an extended period and could be discharged or defective due to a manufacturing issue
2. **The car has a parasitic draw**- This would explain why the first battery was dead and could be the reason why the replacement battery died after a short time.

I think the car should be looked at by a professional. The technician could then determine the condition of the battery as well as if there is a parasitic draw, which can cause the battery to be drained. The drain could be as simple as the trunk or glove box light being left on or an even a computer that fails “to go asleep”.

If storing a vehicle, I recommend that the battery be connected to a “float-type” battery charger which will keep the battery charged without over charging it. If the vehicle is being stored where there is no electricity available, consider using a solar charger that can be placed on the dash and plugged into the lighter plug. This works on most domestic brands but does not work on Asian or European vehicles because the lighter plug is not connected directly to the battery on these vehicles.

