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Dust & Water seals

Fix those annoying leaks

Land Rover may be credited for a most effective and sustained design innovation of letting dust and water in and oil out. It takes real skill to sustain this over so many years and models. Short of throwing away the vehicle and buying something made in Japan, there are limits to successful fixes, but here are some suggestions that can improve matters without requiring a new overdraft to achieve.

Tailgate

On Range Rovers with the horizontal split tailgates, factory warrant ensures that rust will destroy one or both of the sections within a few years. In the meantime, dust ingress will enhance the driving pleasure. For the early DISCO models, adoption of vertical-opening tailgates was reluctantly approved by the cost-accountant only when it was found there were no surplus Range Rover tailgates in stock. This modification did reduce the dust ingress, much to the dismay of the marketing department who recognised that “macho” appeal was a unique selling proposition for the brand.



Discovery 2
tailgate seal

Window seals

Older 2-door Range Rovers had excellent sliding side windows designed to allow a flat-blade screwdriver to prize up the window to gain access to the door locks. Auditory accompaniment was also provided in the form of constant rattles. Land Rover Defender models continued this tradition with sliding windows providing most of the same benefits.



RR Classic front
quarter window
seal

Doorframe seals

For the first 25 years of Land Rover history, it was assumed that because dust was rarely a problem in Toorak or Double Bay, it was unnecessary to provide for such uncouth conditions. To be fair, later models starting with the P38 had much improved seals that actually worked. Regrettably, it does not seem possible to retrofit P38 door seals to earlier models.



Defender front &
rear door seal



P38 right hand
waist seal

Load Space

The location of the spare wheel under the load space floor in the P38 achieved the release of much needed space in the load compartment. It also required the removal of everything in that compartment should the spare wheel be needed. The drain in the tyre well may cause water to enter should the vehicle be waded through deep streams. However, plugging the drain is not recommended because it will prevent the exit of any water entering the space through defective tailgate seals.

Sunroof

Land Rover owners may take comfort in the knowledge that sunroof problems are not confined to them. Most of the problems of water ingress via a sunroof may be attributed to blocked drains. After opening the roof slide, this condition is fairly easy to rectify by locating the bottom end of each drainpipe adjacent to the side pillars. A good squirt of compressed air up each pipe will frequently clear the rubbish. Incidentally, before attacking the sunroof as the cause of water all through the carpets, it is wise to check that it is not the heater core or air-conditioning pipes causing the problem.

Supply issues

Graeme Cooper Automotive have extensive practical experience of Land Rover servicing and can source parts not otherwise generally available, through numerous Australian and International suppliers.

Spectrum Rubber, for example, supply GCA with many seals for early Range Rover, as follows:

RANGE ROVER 1972-1995

- 322.017 Door seal (on body) - PVC finish black - 2 dr
- 322.017 Door seal (on body) - PVC finish black - 4 dr front
- 322.017 Door seal (on body) - PVC finish black - 4 dr rear
- 322.015 Door seal (on body) - velour finish black - 2 dr
- 322.015 Door seal (on body) - velour finish black - 4 dr front
- 322.015 Door seal (on body) - velour finish black - 4 dr rear
- 235.019 Tailgate seal - upper

RANGE ROVER P38

- 220.058 Rear quarter window seal - rear door - main
- 220.059 Rear quarter window seal - rear door - base

For these models, also DISCOVERY and DEFENDER please contact Craig Flood at Graeme Cooper Automotive **02 9550 2689** or **parts@graemecooper.com.au**