

Step By Step: Door Seal Restoration

Type 34 doors have a unique frameless design, with the door window sliding snug up against the upper window seal. Beautiful & elegant design but over time it leads to wind leaks and drafts if not properly maintained. Poor door hinges and misalignment of the striker plate can lead to gaps in the door. Torn or old seals can lead to wind noise and drafts.

There are four seals on a T34 that need to be replaced to attain proper door seal: upper door window seal, upper front door edge seal, outer door edge seal, and the door wedge.

Upper Door Window Seal:

this seal is unique to the T34 and can be found thru PoP in Thailand for \$70/pair. It includes the A-pillar seal cut & glued to the upper door window seal cut & glued to the B-pillar seal. Best way to install this seal is to insert the outside edge into the aluminum channel first and then use a flathead screwdriver to push the inside edge of the seal into the aluminum channel. Begin at the corner (top of A-pillar) to ensure alignment and then work towards the back of the door window. Trim any excess seal at the bottom of the A & B-pillars with a sharp razor blade for a smooth cut.

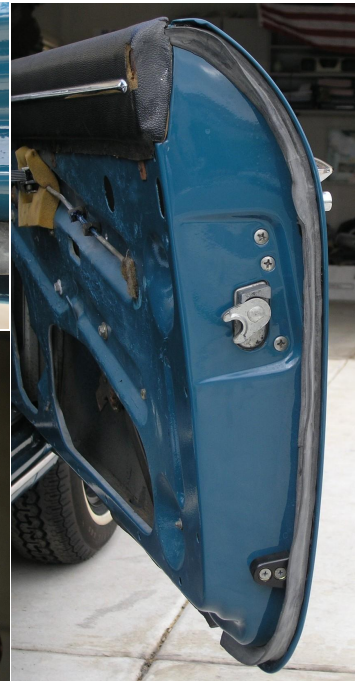


Upper Front Door Edge Seal:

this seal (right) is also unique to the T34 but is not so easily found, as no reproduction is currently available.



Outer Door Edge Seal: this seal is a T14 part and can easily be found at West Coast Metric for \$24/pair. The upper door pad needs to be removed first and the old seal must be removed. Best way to install this seal is to start at the top and use black weatherstrip adhesive & blue masking tape (doesn't stick to paint) to hold the seal in place for 30 minutes while it dries. The T14 seal is about 2" shorter than the T34 door, but it's not visible (upper right). Be sure to tuck the upper round tip of this seal inside the upper door pad for a clean fit (center right).



Door Wedge: this part is a T14 part and can be found at most VW parts suppliers including KGP&R, WCM, and B&S for about \$20/pair. It's best to replace this wedge after the outer door edge seal has been installed.

Once all these seals are in place you may need to adjust the door striker plate to get optimal door alignment of door to body panels. Then you should enjoy a much quieter ride with fewer rattles and tighter door closing.

