

Roof-care

Often people write down strange hints in Forums, magazine or similar.

So I thought that it could be useful to create this "care instruction" after about 30 years practical knowledge.

The following allegations are based on my own experience.

Many manufacturers are trying to sell their product, though they don't know what your roof is made out of.

Usually you can clean every roof with water.

Always roofs are colour dyed.

It means that the roof is made of coloured fibers.

Redyeing is just a temporary solution (lasts just 2 weeks up to 3 months)

Even a roof made out of mohair isn't possible to redyeing.

Even a PVC roof is impossible to redyeing.

The PVC roof is manufactured out of coloured synthetic substance

A redyeing of the roof is just good as a "sales help". ☺

Once a customer shows me a substance that should fix the softeners inside of the roof.

Bad idea!

If you have a textile roof, the PVC is inside the 3 layers.

This way it could maybe happen that you trap the water inside your roof, and it will begin to rot.

Also there are some resellers that explain, that you can use dashboard cleaners.

(they include silicones)

The drawback: you'll get silicone tracks on your roof and your paint. ☹

You can use once a year pure silicone oil to protect the roof.

That you can smear on the whole roof (after you've got to wait 48 hours without driving)

After, you have to clean your car 2-3 times without soap.

Although tedious, but the PVC remains for many years deep black and flexible.

If you got to a car wash, don't use wax care or similar.

The less additional program you choose, the longer is the life of your roof.

In some cases, rain and sun can destroy your roof.

Don't listen logical at first, I know.

But in some regions got rain acidic ingredients (e.g. industrial areas)

Usually not a problem for your roof.

This changes to a problem when the water could not evaporate.

I know already two reasons to this "evaporate problem"

-opening the roof before it become completely dry. (when in this case, the closed roof got into sun, it start to heaten and the mold will grow)☺

This way your roof just endure 2 summers.

Usually are 10 min. driving enough to dry out the roof.

The rooftop box should also be completely dry.

On some BMW and Audi we notice that the seals break faster. It's cheaper to renew the seal than the roof.

The other reason why your roof can be crack or mold is when you impregnate it.

Impregnate is bad for your roofs health!

Your roof exist out of three welded layers.

The visible layers (except the middle PVC layer) are WATER TRANSLUCENT !

I explain why. If the outer layer get a cut or any kind of damage, would be the water entry unstopable and the the same story with the mold starts. (in this case, there are no solutions for evaporate of the water :-))

So save your money, and don't buy any impregnater !

Waterproof is just the middle layer.

So if you have have a not dryable roof, relate an expert. Or just to use your car by best weather. !

The only thing you could use is a seam sealer.

But use it just, when you've got a water entry trouh the seams, and use only a industrial seam sealer.

Next topic is SUN:

Every PVC (with roof got included as much) are not permanent resistant to UV radiation from sun.

This is a general knowing.

However, the effect is still underestimated.

E.g. a rooftop in Florida without a carport or garage have got a lifespan of just three years.

So try to find at least a carport, better a garage.

Me and my wife are both Golf I Cabrio driver. In 1999 we changed on both cars the top. My car always rest under free air, because we just got a one garage place.

My wife's car are always in the garage. Both cars were used equally often and get equally care.

But the roof of my wife's car looks like new (like at the first day)

At my car I can see the first little cracks in the bending point.

So I can guarantee that environmental impact are pretty blatant to your roof.

Even more relevant is the whole story to cars with a PVC rearwindow.

In this case, is the sunshine more harmful than you can imagine.

We had got a 15 years lightproof stored roofskin. There were no visible damages and the flexibility was perfect.

Also note that, if you've got a car just for the summer, don't store it through the winter with the roof open.

At first it sounds like an exculpatory idea for your roof, but it damaged it more than it looks like.

Without tension your roof will draw compressed, and crack while closing.

Much customer told me about the problem while closing roofs after a winter.

In principle, are textile roofskins more unproblematic as a PVC roof.

They get less cracks and resistant more to the sun and other impacts.

Of both materials have in common following:

They need care!

So I put some pictures to visible the quality careing.

Not just for your paint, also for your roofskin is bird droppings harmful and corrosive, leaves, branches, pieces of bark and similar are same corrosive.

Moisture creates a kind of tannic acid which damage your car.

In this picture you can see bird droppings and tree sap (pic no1)



The first step is to soak the points (pic no2)



In stubborn cases, take help by a brush. (pic no3)



Now you can scrape out the fist dirt with a crude brush. (pic no4)



Now you can use liquid soap or hair shampoo as next step (pic no5)



Provide the dirt spots generously.



In this case, is more better then less.



Now work the soap in (pic no6)



Work it till foam cushions forms. (pic no7)

pic no7



Repeat this step a few times.



Now clear it out with pure water (pic no8)



If you still see dirt spots, redo the last steps (in our case, we needn't)



Now you see the roof is spotfree (But my camera lens get some dirt drops ☺)



In hard case,(adhesive, oil, paint) take help by cleanig benzine.

NOTE!!!

Check as first stap at an unvisible spot the colour fastness of your roof.

An other great topic are the PVC windows.

All Alfa Romeo Spider Fastback, Alfa Romeo Spider from 94' Audi 80, BMW E30, E36, Z1, Z3, Chevrolet Corvette C4 , Fiat 850, Barchetta, Punto, Ford/Mercury Capri, Mazda MX5, DB W113, R107 / W107, R129, MG-F, MG-TF, Peugeot 205, 306, Porsche 911, 944, 964, 968, 986 , 996, Renault Megane, R19, Rover 214/216, Toyota Paseo, Triumph Tr3, TR4, TR6, VW Karmann Ghia drivers and some more could wirte Mémoire about there PVC windows.

The windows get scratched, or get cloudy and similair

Manufacturer offers much different products.

The most of them are way to expesive and don't gives you the effect you paid for.

In education I use to polish much of the those PVC windows, hence i can told you witch products have a good effect.

There are just two products I recommend to you: Metallic finish and paint cleaner.

Sounds easy? It is!

Polish out the scratches same as you do on your paint.

Note: While polishing you have to worn out material.
This work with solvents (but they make your window turbid) or with abrasive (polish)

In divers PVC polishes are such abrasive, but for a to high price.

In the following paragraphs I show you how to polish the right way.

As my personal victim I take a Megane, witch had rested under a tree.



I think the customer uses an ice scraper in the winter.

Resin stains and calcium make a viewtruh impossible.

The customer wanted at first to exchange the window.

Price for this car about: 509\$

If you think this is expensive ? After an request by Audi, the told us that the price contains up to 890\$☺

The interior is almost invisible.



From the side, no view inside is possible,



First step, clean out the window with pure water.



I usually take help by a polish machine to take on the polish cream.



Of course you can use cotton cloth, and work on with hands.



In in hard dirten case, use first a paint cleaner.



Clean out first the outter side.



Than polish out the the window with the cleaner (look already better).



Now do the same steps form the inside.



Now we start seeing the internieur.



In the following step I use a metallic finish. (Same job as with the cleaner)



After in and outside polishing your window should look like this.



Now it depends on your own patience, the oftener your polish the better is the effect.



In this example I do the job four times.



After the sixth polishing the window look pretty new.



A laborious job, but efficient.

If your window already turns bit yellow, there is now way to rescue.
Don't even try to polish, it wouldn't help.

Last but not least, my personally Cabriolet hints:

While drivig with top down put always on the Persenning .

Use always a carport or a garage.

Don't open a wetten top.

Close the roof in the winter, and let it closed.

Remove bird droppig or foliage immediately

Never use a scratcher for your PVC window.

Just work with much water as possible

Never open or kink the top under 15 °C / 60 °F .

I hope my hints could help you.

All instructions are just a guide.

Some time it's better to relate an expert. ☺