

## BMW E30 Water Intrusion

As you clean and check each area, pour some water there and make sure it all drains to the floor.

### Cowl Area

Remove the cowl vents at the base of the windshield. Driver's side will require removal of the windshield wiper.

While you are in the area of the wipers, make sure the gasket between the wiper posts and the cowl is in good shape.

Remove any debris from under the cowl vent covers.

Water drains out thru the fenders and through the elephant trunk (black plastic tube on the firewall by the battery tray)

Ensure everything is clear

There is a gap between the fender and cowl lips under the hood gasket. Mine leaked, dripped onto the AC hoses as they go through the firewall and was dripping on top of the carpet under the glove box. The hint was water on the battery tray. Seal that gap!

### Rocker Panels

Clear the drain hole in the rocker panels. These tend to clog with road debris. Fish them through with a little wire or blow them out with air.

### Sunroof drains (2 front and 2 rear)

Clean and remove debris from the area around the sunroof. The gasket on the sunroof is only designed to keep most of the water out, it is not a seal per se.

Try string trimmer string to snake the front drains all the way to the rocker panels.

The rear drains can be tricky. The Bentley suggests speedometer cable to snake them through to the trunk. I carefully blew air from the truck to make sure mine were clear.

Ensure the drain hoses are properly connected to the trunk vents and the vents are clear.

### Trunk

Antenna gasket and, on my after market antenna drive, the drain hose for the drive itself

Sunroof drain hose

There is an O-ring around the trunk vent housing

The gasket for the tail light housing needs to be checked and carefully installed and ensure it covers the outer edge of the housing.

On my (early) car there are three nuts and/or bolts that hold the exterior plastic trim. I had removed these when I had the bumper off and neglected to replace the rubber washers that seal the holes between the trim and the body. These were the biggest contributor to my leaks.

Where the side marker light wire passes through the body, that grommet can crack (I can't find the part number). Seal that area.

### **HVAC box**

Inside the car, under the HVAC box there are 3 drain tubes. Make sure they are fitted correctly and are not cracked. When in doubt, replace them. When these leak, they tend to leak UNDER the carpet. Warm them up a bit to make installation easier.

Where the AC hoses enter the HVAC box by the expansion valve, that cover / access panel gasket can leak. A little RTV should solve that issue.

### **Doors and Fenders**

Make sure the base of the doors and fender drain holes are clear. Another area that once clogged will retain moisture and rust.

### **Rusted floor pans**

As old as these cars are, if your interior is damp, a very careful inspection under the car is in order.

The catalytic converter heat shield mounting studs tend to collect debris and moisture then rust through.

Anywhere dirt and moisture is thrown up from the tires is prone to collecting debris and rusting.

Pull the plastic wheel opening shields and clean behind them and inspect

The right rear wheel opening shield covers the fuel vent / overflow tank. That area can collect a lot of debris.