

CX A-Pillar Water Leaks

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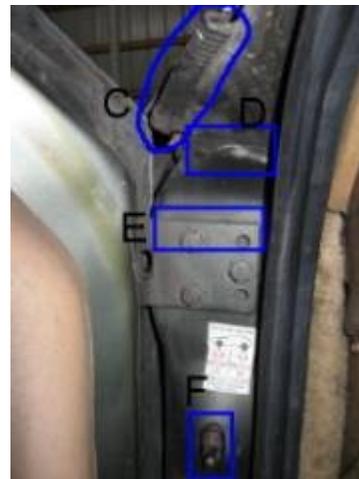
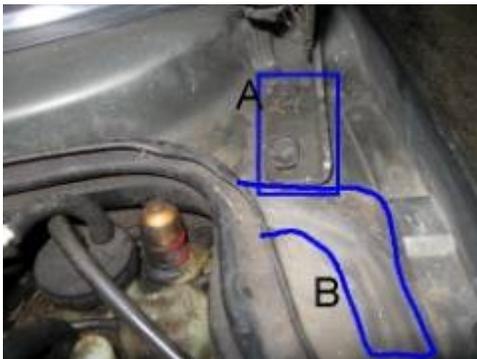
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Have you ever been driving along in your CX and felt a drip on your left foot? Or open the door in the morning after a hard rain to find a bird bath where your feet go?

Well, you are not alone. The leaking water is not only a nuisance but can cause severe problems also. The floor pan will rust after a few years of being wet and the fuse panel (in series II) can be damaged beyond repair. When water gets into the fuse box you get all kinds of electrical problems that come and go. Galvanic action within the fuse box will cause the metals to corrode quite rapidly.

This article discusses the solutions to the A-Pillar leaks which are the most common leaks in the front of the CX. These leaks are easy to fix and will keep your feet dry in those heavy rains.

There are two areas where the water can leak in. The area by the hood hinge under the hood and the A-Pillar by the door hinges. For the under hood area I prefer to use polyurethane caulk and for the A-Pillar door hinge area I prefer 3M strip caulk. If you can't find the 3M strip caulk sometimes hardware stores will carry Mortite Weatherstrip and Caulking Cord. This one's much cheaper than the 3M brand and works just as well. They generally come in black and gray colors. This strip caulk is a soft, never hardening strip that can be molded in place with your fingers. Get the colors that will most closely match your car. Clean both areas to assure adhesion of the caulks.



There are several spots that will need to be sealed. We'll start with the hardest one first. The area where the hood hinge bolts to the car and is labeled 'A' on the picture. The car has two layers of sheet metal in this area and any water that can get in between these layers can get into the car. Have a strong helper hold the hood while you remove the two bolts holding the hinge to the car. Do one hinge at a time. It's important to hold the hood steady to avoid paint chips. Once the bolts are out slowly raise that corner of the hood a couple of

inches. Clean under the hinge and remove any old factory applied caulking that is loose. There may be spacers under the hinge. Clean them and set aside for now. Now apply the polyurethane caulk to the area. The two holes that go through both sheets of metal are the important spots. Once the caulk is in place put the spacers back and then the two bolts.

The next spot under the hood is just forward of the hood hinge and is labeled 'B' on the picture. It's the area where the top layer of sheet metal ends. There is usually a thick, factory applied caulk to this joint. If the original caulk is not loose then leave it there and spread the new caulk over the old caulk. It's not uncommon to see cracks in the old caulk and yet the caulk is very tough and can not be removed.

Now we'll move to the inside of the A-Pillar. Open the car door and clean the A-Pillar from the level of the hinge down to the push button interior light switch.

Remove the rubber molding labeled 'C' on the picture. Clean this area. I usually use the polyurethane caulk for this spot. Look forward and under the top of the fender sheet metal. This seam goes for a couple inches forward under the fender. Take a long screwdriver or stick and get the caulk along this seam. It does not have to look pretty. No one can see in there. Now place caulk where the rubber molding was and re-install the rubber molding.

Now move down to 'D' on the picture. This car already has strip caulk here. Place a line of the caulk here and press into the seam. Place a strip of caulk along the top edge of the hinge as shown at letter 'E'. The last spot is the push button light switch which is labeled 'F'. Remove the switch by removing the screw. Place a bead of strip caulk on the A-Pillar and under the switch. Re-install the switch. Sometimes people drill other holes in the A-pillar for wires or alarm switches (Yeah, like someone would want to steal my CX). Using the strip caulk you can fill these holes in.

If needed, do the same to the other A-Pillar on the other side of the car. And now you will have dry feet!