

Mohair roof clean and reseal

This is good job for a sunny afternoon. If drying takes longer then it may be worth doing it over two days.

Mohair soft tops get ingrained dust deposits within the weave which cause the roof to appear faded. Normal washing tends to be gentle because anything else would harm the delicate waterproofing. Unfortunately this simply drives this dust deeper into the weave.

Vacuuming can be effective at removing loose dust. Directional clothes brushes are superb for removing surface contaminants. If however you want a clean roof then you are going to have to remove the waterproofing as well. This isn't a bad thing; reproofing needs to be done periodically and it works better if the old silicon is removed first.

Erect the roof so that all the components are tight. Using a mix of hot water and washing up liquid scrub the roof in a circular motion using a nail brush. Don't worry, the roof material is tough and won't be harmed by this activity. When you are satisfied that the roof material is scrupulously clean you should use a hose pipe to drench the roof using a deluge of water whilst scrubbing with the nail brush. Only when you are unable to develop suds on the roof will you know that the soap has been removed. It is essential that all the soap is removed because soap will reduce the adhesion of silicon to mohair.

When complete leave to dry in sunlight. Remove sections and open fittings to allow joining surfaces to dry. When completely dry you will need to reseal. This should only be done with brush on liquid sealer. Thompson Waterseal or Fabsil liquid will provide effective weather seal that should last for many years.

The method of application is important. This work should be carried out in dry weather but not too hot. It may be worth masking off bodywork and windows because these liquids are very runny and you will need to get into all the edges.

You'll need two paint brushes one 3" and one 1". Pour some sealer into a dish for ease of loading the brush. Use the big brush for most of the work, the small brush for better control at the edges. The trick is to always have enough liquid on the brush so that it doesn't run dry part way through a brush stroke. You should apply in straight lines making sure you overlap the previous line by at least 50% thereby effectively coating twice, be quick because the previous line should also still be wet. Swap brushes as required. It is worth giving extra attention to the joining edges and stitching, the joining areas suffer from wear & tear and the stitched areas are know leak points. Allow to dry completely then apply a second coat at 90 degrees to the first.

This effort should vastly improve the colour of the fabric and my experience shows that the seal is still good after four years of all weather driving.