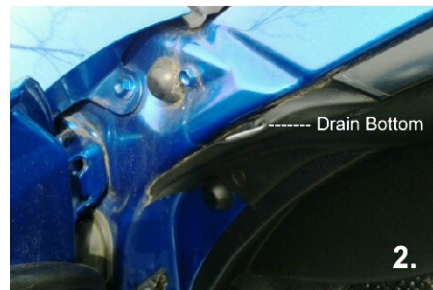
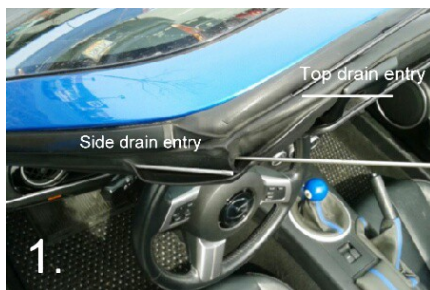


Keep your Miata dry inside.

Cleaning the Top rain drains.

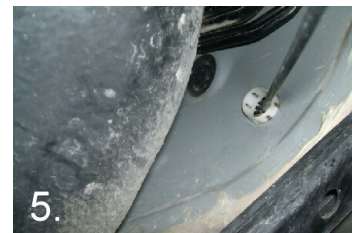
Convertible cars have potential leak areas where the convertible top of the car meets the body. This article applies to both the Powered Retractable Hard Top and the Soft Top models, all of the way back to the very first Miata. Keep the drains clear to keep rain water outside the car.

There are channels and drains front and back where the top meets the body. Along the top of the windshield is a channel that runs across the top of the windshield. This catches any water that leaks in along the front of the top and sends it to the drains along the sides. There are four points to check and three of them are in each corner where the top, the windshield, and the side window meet. See picture #1. At first glance you will see a “cup” shaped piece of rubber in this corner. This is to catch water that comes in around the front top corner of the side window. Look in the bottom of this cup and you will see a small hole. This hole leads to a hollow tube that runs thru the rubber gasket down along side of the front windshield frame. Make sure this hole is clear. See the shiny wires I have in the holes in the pictures.



The next place to check is the short hollow “tube” which runs from the top windshield channel, horizontally to the tube which runs down along the side of the windshield. See “Top Drain Entry” in picture 1. I actually used the radio antenna off of my 2006 Miata to check this, as it is a large inside diameter tube at this point on the NC and only about 2” long. The last thing to check is to be sure the hollow tube that runs down along side of the windshield frame is clear. See “Side Drain Entry” in picture #1. This comes out down near the bottom of the windshield and the water runs to the outside of the car. See “Drain Bottom” in picture #2. I used a piece of wire that I had ground and sanded the tip until it was round and smooth. I have been told you can use compressed air, but be careful if this tube is clogged you might blow out the side of the tube. Then the entire windshield gasket would need replaced \$\$\$\$\$. Repeat all of the previous checks on both left and right side of the car.

There are also two drains at the back of the Top. These direct water from where the back of the top meets the car body, down to the ground under the car. Again, ALL model Miatas have these rear drains, one on each side of the car. The drains are right behind the door post, under the hinge points of the soft top, and down inside the recessed area for the top. It is easiest to see these with the top just partially up or down at about the mid point. The drains of the PRHT models are a little easier to see if you stop the downward cycle of the top just as the rear valence panel is at the top of it’s movement, and just before the hard top starts to come down. See Picture #3 for an idea of where this top drain location is on the soft top model. PRHT model is in the same place but easier to find. The NA and NB rear drains don’t have the plastic cover above them as shown in picture 3, so the drain is easy to see.



I am told to go to a music store and buy a "Trombone Cleaning Brush", (Picture #4) as this is the right size to clean this rear drain. Push this down from the top, so it comes out the bottom end of the tubing. I have read not to pull it back up, but to look under the car (Picture #5) and pull it down thru. The reason for this is because of a flapper valve in this drain tube to help keep insects from coming up thru. If you pull the brush back up, it might damage the flapper which could block water from going down thru the tube. Do this to the rear drains on both sides of the Top.

It is important to keep these drains clear. If the front drains clog, water will come inside and puddle on or under the floor mats. If the rear drains clog, you could put water in the trunk during a hard rain. It is easier to keep the drains clear rather than drying out the padding and metal under the carpeting. With the April rains on their way, I thought this would be a good time to publish this article.

As always, feel free to ask if you have any questions.

Zoom-Zoom! Bill Latsha