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*For all you owners of soft tops, here's a timely reminder to check and clean your water drains before the wet season starts. There are various guides on what to do and how best to do it on our **mx5vic** web site and the wider web.*

### But what has this to do with the PRHT (power retractable hard top) on the NC?

The NC PRHT also has water drains, the same as the soft top and, like the soft top, they require checking and cleaning ... or you may also experience the dreaded "wet floor" syndrome.

Many point out that the roof seals so well and that no water should require draining on a PRHT. Further claims state they have never seen water in the

drain pans after washing their car – and neither should they. That said, let's take the *stationary* car away from the *flat* driveway and take it over some harsh undulations at speed or over driveway crossovers whilst it's raining and now a small amount of water could breach the PRHT's roof seals.

Other scenarios where water may reach the drain pans are when folding a wet roof or getting caught with the roof down in the rain. Mazda engineers envisaged

this and developed a complex drainage system which eventually channels the water to the drain pans and out under the car.

The problem is that so very little water ever flows down the drains, and what does will collect the ever-present dust, turning it into muddy water. There is rarely enough water to flush the muddy water from the drains, resulting in a build-up of mud and eventually the dreaded blocked drain.

### So how and where do we check the rain drains in a NC PRHT?

Start the roof open cycle until the rear cover opens fully, stopping the cycle before the roof itself begins to open.

From the rear, check that both drain tubes are connected to the bottom of the rear window as per the following photo.



Rear window drains



Left and right rear window drains

The rear window drains are connected to a spigot under the window and retained with a wire clip.



Rear window drain and wire clip

The drain pans are located directly behind and below the roll hoops and can be checked by pouring water on to them. The water should drain away quickly and flow out from under the car in a steady stream. If it doesn't drain or drains out slowly, your drains will require cleaning.



Drain pan

Cleaning the drain is much harder than it should be as unfortunately the Mazda engineers welded the debris grate to the top of the drain tube making it impossible to feed anything through the grate to unblock the drain. Some people have cut the grate to allow access and then clipped it back into place with various degrees of success. My method is to use a compressed air nozzle wrapped with a rag, forcing the air through the grate and down the tube. Follow this up with water and repeat until the water flows freely.



*Rear window seal*

As part of my cleaning regime, I also wipe all the seals with a wet cloth to remove any dirt or dust that may have accumulated in the grooves, channels and tubes. I also use a spray bottle of water and a small, soft paint brush to get into the various crevices.

**While we are cleaning the rear water drains ...**

... the PRHT and the soft top share the same water drains around the windscreen header (where the roof meets

the windscreen) and at the rear of the door, so it's worth checking and cleaning those as well.



*Door drains*

**Happy cleaning! ■**

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