



Unplug a sunroof drain - front and rear - Seat Leon MK3/5F - Volkswagen Golf

If you happen to discover water in the trunk it is likely that your sunroof drains are blocked. This guide helps you to fix it yourself.

Written By: Christophe Vandeplas



INTRODUCTION

Recently I discovered a lot of water in the trunk of my Seat Leon Mk3 / 5F (2014+) . After much investigation I saw drops falling in the grill on the left and right side.

As the joint between the sunroof and the car is not perfectly waterproof there is a system catching the water. The water collected there is then left out through 4 drains (2 front, 2 rear behind the back window). If those drains are blocked the water cannot leave and will go over the border and enter the car.

In my case I was lucky to have water in the trunk, so there's no damage in the inside/finishing.

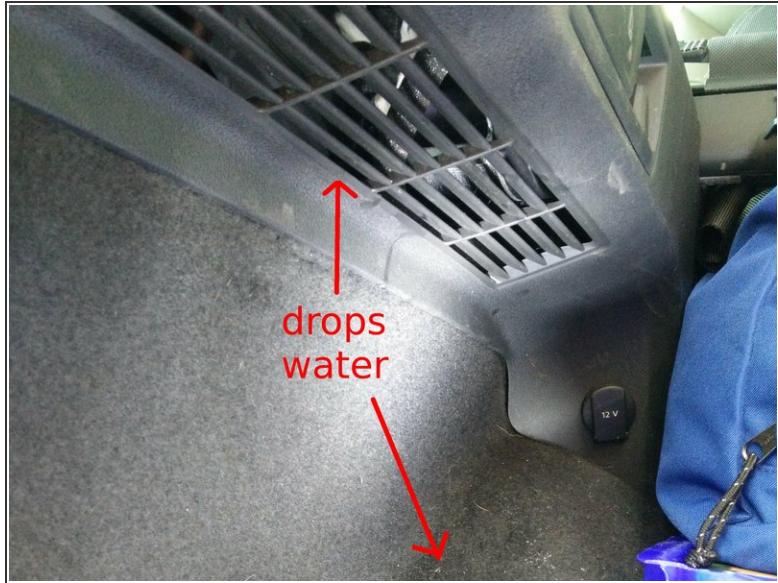
The drains can be blocked at the entrance (roof) or at the exit of the tube. In my case the entrance was perfectly clean, but the exits were blocked.

This howto is to help you clean the exit from the front of the car, and the rear of the car.

TOOLS:

- [T40 Torx Socket \(1\)](#)
- [10mm Wrench \(1\)](#)

Step 1 — Testing the drains



- Open the sunroof completely
- Locate the sunroof drains, verify if there's no dirt inside at the entrance point. (aka: you can see the clean hole like the picture)
- Pour water in the rail to test if it works.
- Wait for the water to disappear. This should take a few seconds, not more. You should see the water come out at the bottom of the car next to the tire.
- If the water remains it means the drain is blocked at the exit.
- Do this over for the 4 corners of the roof. To test the back drains just pour water on the most rear part of the opening. You will see the water go below the back window and come out below the car.
- If you put too much water you might see drops coming out from the vent in the trunk.

Step 2 — Rear drains - empty trunk



- Empty the trunk
- Remove the spare tire
- Remove the equipment
- For your comfort remove the plug.
Push it down and rotate.

Step 3 — Rear drain - left plastics



- on the left side pull up the vertical plastic
- unclip the 3 plastic "caps" in the back
- do the same thing for the right side of the trunk

Step 4 — Rear drain - middle piece



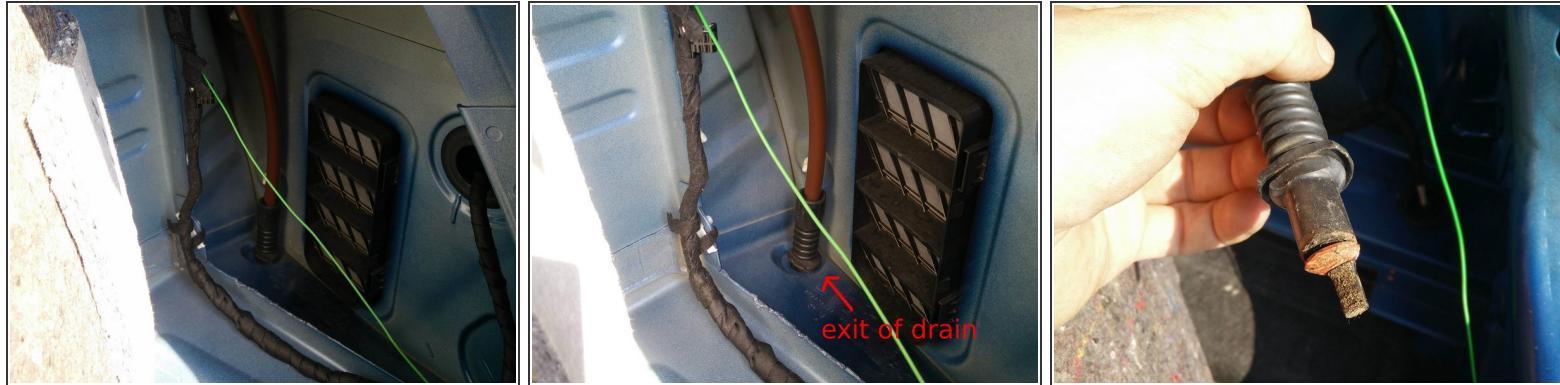
- now we need to take out the middle piece, as this holds the sides in place
- unscrew the 3 torx screws from the inside of the trunk
- once unscrewed, pull up the plastic thing from one side, you will hear clips coming loose (sounds like something breaks)
- pull gently on the other side
- take the big piece completely out of the trunk

Step 5 — Rear drain - top plastic



- Now we're going to take out the top plastic thing
- Unscrew the 2 torx screws on the left. The back screw is smaller than the one hidden behind the seat handle
- Pull gently in the bottom side of the plastic. Then gently on the top side. Wiggle a bit. You should hear a sound of the pins coming loose. If you pull too hard you might break one of the plastic pins. (if you break one it's not a disaster)
- there is no need to completely pull it out, just pull it so that the bottom grey soft "wall" comes loose

Step 6 — Rear drain - end is visible



- Pull the grey soft side towards you and you should see the water drain behind
- Do NOT pull the tube now
- Pull the black end out of the bottom. Leave the tube attached.
- Once out, you should see the full plug.

Step 7 — Rear drain - cleaning the end



- Notice how dirty and clogged the drain is.
- Unplug the drain from the tube, take care not to pull on the other side of the tube as you don't want it to be detached on the other side
- Once you have the black end in your hands, clean it inside.
- Once clean, FIRST put the black end back in the hole of the car
- Afterwards push the tube in the black end so it fits back together

Step 8 — Rear drain - follow the steps backwards



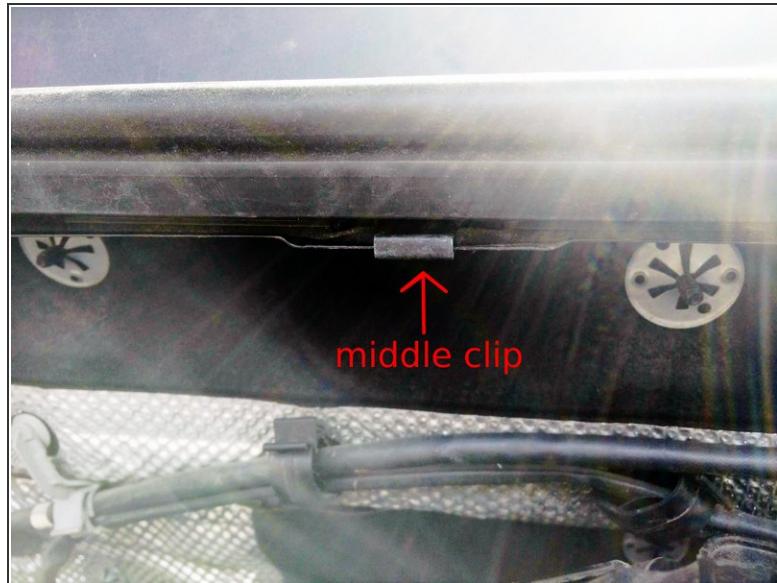
- Follow the steps backwards.
- When closing the left big plastic, and BEFORE putting the screws, keep in mind the joint on the back. The joint needs to be put back above the plastic. It's easy if you start at one end and gently slide it above the plastic using your fingers. Do not use anything that cuts.
- Same story for the big middle piece, FIRST the joint, THEN the screws

Step 9 — Front drain - foam and plug



- Open the hood of the car
- On the outer left and outer right you can see a foam. Gently take it out. Take care not to break the fragile end. This will reveal a plug.
- Take a plier and gently pull the plug out
- Take the pin out of the plug. This is needed when we will re-assemble everything. Later, at re-assembly we'll first put the plug, and then the pin.

Step 10 — Front drain - clips



- Remove the 3 clips
- You can do this easily with your hand. Hold on tight and pull/slide them out. Make sure they don't fall in the motor.

Step 11 — Front drain - covering grid



- Raise the plastic grid and see what's below. While I did not manage to take the plastic out, it naturally came loose a bit later. You can force it to come loose by pulling it UPWARDS on the side of the WINDOW.
- On the left side you will see two screws (10mm) holding a covering plastic. This is meant to prevent water to come in the air-intake.
- If you gently lift the plastic up and unscrew those two bolts. Make sure you DO NOT DROP THEM.
- To remove this plastic, push the left (big) side (towards the car). The right (small) side will come loose and you can pull the whole thing out by taking the right (small) side out first.

Step 12 — Front drain - drain in sight



- Still on the left side of the car, raise the plastic grid again and you'll see our water drain exit valve.
- To clean it you can squeeze it with the hand, put your finger in it.
- Once cleaned, pour some water in the open roof to force some water to come out and continue the cleaning.
- On the right side of the car you will find the drain well hidden behind the mechanic of the windscreens wiper.

Step 13 — Front drain - re-assembly



- Follow all the steps in reverse and you're done.
- If, like with me, the plastic grid came loose on the windscreens side you will need to push it back to its place over the whole windscreens. Press firmly on the border of the plastic / windscreens to force it in place.
- Pour some more water in the drains in the roof and you're done !

Pour some more water in the roof drain and enjoy how everything drains away quickly !