

There's nothing more frustrating than completing a project only to find that the problem still persists. That's especially true of restoring Air Cooled VW convertible tops. Mid America Motorworks recently uncovered the key to proper fit and function on your Convertible VW Beetle or Ghia: Wedges! We'll help you determine which wedges you need and where they belong on your Volkswagen.

Convertible Top Wedges keep out wind and weather. Just like seals on the rest of your VW, they will dry out and crack over time, creating leaks and incessant wind noise. We were surprised to find that some convertibles are missing their Convertible Top Wedges, simply because the owner never realized they were there.

No Two Wedges Are Equal

Just as you wouldn't use a deck lid seal on the door of your VW, different Wedges have different applications.

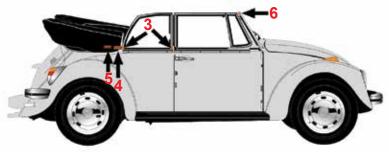
1. Alignment Pin Sleeves

These Alignment Pin Sleeves fit the windshield frame, helping align the pins on your convertible top. They provide a cushion that protects the paint from chips and scratches when putting your top up or down.

2. Front of Door Wedge & Rear of Door Wedge

Front of Door Wedges fit the front of the door on a VW Beetle, while Rear of Door Wedges fit the rear of the door, just behind the window. Both wedges are designed to minimize vibration and ensure the proper seating of windows.





3. Front of Quarter Window Wedge & Rear of Quarter **Window Wedge**

Front and Rear of Quarter Window Wedges eliminate that annoying rattle when your rear windows are rolled down, it may be time to replace your window stops.

4. Quarter Facing Base to Body Wedge

Quarter Facing Base to Body Wedges are a must for ensuring proper spacing of the convertible top frame. They mount on the bottom of the wood quarter facings and seal to the body. These wedges were used on all Convertibles with wood outer quarter facings.

5. Main Bow to Base to Body Wedge

Main Bow to Base to Body Wedges play an important part for your VW Beetle. They act as a proper spacer for adjusting clearance on the top frame edge of your Convertible Top.

6. Front Top Corner Wedge

For proper alignment and seating on your windshield, the Front Top Corner Wedges are a must. They also protect your VW's paint job from scratches and chips.

Keep in mind that rubber seals are made using a soapstone-based mold release solution during the manufacturing process, which can cause the seals to take on a gray color, instead of the anticipated black. The solution helps the rubber pieces pull out of the molds more cleanly and also helps the workers separate them when dealing in large bulk quantities. This coating is normal and can be easily removed with soap and water. After installation, a light coating of silicone grease will help protect the rubber by preventing it from drying out, thus extending its useful life.

Convertible Top Wedges are typically available individually or sold as pairs. For Mid America Motorworks' full line of wedges, click here.





