

2010-2013 MAZDA3 DAMAGE TO VIN PLATE AND LOWER COWL SHEET METAL

When cutting the urethane prior to removing the windshield, extreme care must be taken to insure that the urethane is completely cut free at the VIN sticker area; otherwise, damage to the lower cowl and VIN sticker may occur.

Provide a copy of this article for the windshield repair specialist.

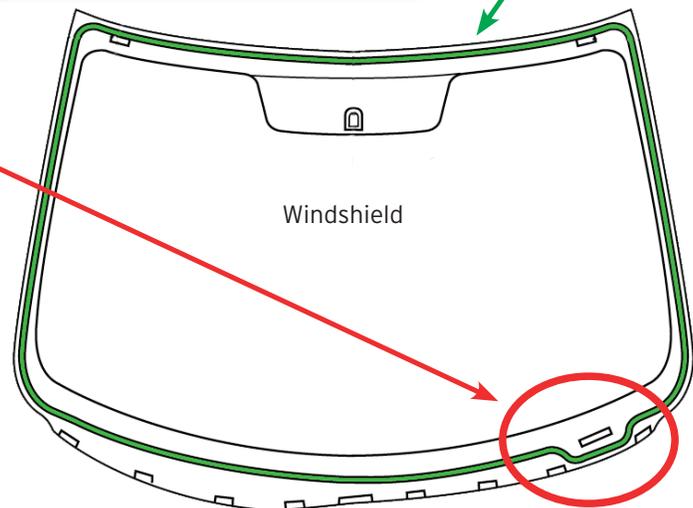


Damaged lower cowl and VIN sticker

Urethane sealer is shown as green.

The urethane pattern dips downwards at the VIN sticker location.

With the windshield installed the technician cannot see this dip and may assume that their tool has cut the urethane, while in fact it may not. As the windshield is then being removed, extreme stress is placed in the subject area and the cowl sheet metal will flex (due to the urethane still adhered to the windshield) and can be split causing damage to the VIN plate without warning.



Use the following guideline to prevent damage to the lower cowl and VIN sticker.

1. Ensure that all cutting tools are in good working order and sharpened.
2. Use water to lubricate and cool the cutting tool during removal operations
3. With every tool use extra care in the VIN location. The urethane bead dips down 1.5 inches from the top of the VIN Plate and can easily be missed.
4. Do not over flex the windshield to gain access to the lower cowl at the VIN sticker area for a long knife cut out
5. If you encounter resistance when lifting out the windshield DO NOT force it, take the time to locate and cut away any remaining urethane so the glass lifts out easy, especially in the VIN location
6. Piano wire or a long knife are the preferred tools to use in the cowl area of these vehicles, especially in the VIN sticker area, however caution must be used to not inadvertently cut the single layer of sheet metal that the VIN is attached to.