APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS....AND MORE THAN A FEW BRICKLINS TO A HALT UNDER THE NEAREST OVERPASS.

SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING, WATERLEAKS HAVE PLAGUED ALMOST EVERY BRICKLIN. SOME ARE WHAT WE TERM "SIEVES", SOME LEAK A LOT, SOME LEAK A LITTLE, AND I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE A COUPLE THAT HAVE NEVER HAD A PROBLEM.

FROM AN ENGINEERING STANDPOINT ALL OF THE CARS ARE THE SAME, BUT BECAUSE OF THE ASSEMBLY TECHNIQUES, EACH CAR HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE PERSONALITY. YOUR BRICKLIN MAY LEAK ONLY AROUND THE HATCH WHILE SOMEONE ELSE'S MAY LEAK EVERYWHERE BUT THE HATCH.

THE FIRST STEP IN TRYING TO TREAT WATERLEAKS IS TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE COMING FROM. THAT MAY SEEM LIKE A VERY ELEMENTARY STATEMENT, BUT BELIEVE ME, IT IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS IT SOUNDS. THE REAR CARPET IN YOUR CAR GETS WET, BUT UNTIL YOU DO SOME TESTING, YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU ARE GETTING A LEAK JUST AROUND THE HATCH SEAL, THE HATCH GLASS SEAL OR THROUGH THE QUARTER WINDOW.

WE DO WHAT WE CALL SELECTIVE TESTING, WHICH IS SIMPLY ISOLATING A PARTICULAR AREA, SAY THE WINDSHIELD FOR EXAMPLE, AND FLOODING IT WITH WATER FROM A HOSE. YOU MAY WANT TO BUILD A DAM AROUND IT WITH SOME SILLY PUTTY OR PLAY DOUGH SO THAT YOU DON'T GET WATER GOING UP AND INTO THE DOOR AREA. YOU ARE USING AN OPEN HOSE, NOT A SPRAY.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MOST COMMON AREAS TO LOOK AT:

1. Around the plenum in to the step wells
2. Door weatherstrip
3. Door panel
4. Quarter windows
5. Hatch seal
6. Hatch glass seal
7. Roof seams
8. Rivets around the door
9. Windshield

THE EASIEST OF THESE AREAS TO FIX IS THE LEAK AROUND THE DOOR PANEL. STEP BY STEP, THIS IS THE WAY WE HANDLE IT:
1. Remove door trim panel.
2. Tape all excess holes with duct tape.
3. Fill the following areas with black silicone: around the regulator spring, around the adjustment bolts, and around the door window crank.
4. Clean drain holes on outer edge of the door.

TEST **** WITH THE DOOR CLOSED AND WITHOUT THE PANEL IN PLACE.
SPRAY WATER ON DOOR GLASS ABOUT HALF WAY UP. CHECK INSIDE FOR ANY LEAKS. REDO ABOVE IF NECESSARY.
RE-INSTALL DOOR PANEL.

GLENN NUTTING IS THE BEST WATERLEAK MAN I HAVE SEEN AND EVEN HE WILL TELL YOU THAT TO ACHIEVE A WATER TIGHT CONDITION ON A LEAKING BRICKLIN 100% OF THE TIME IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY.

IN FUTURE COLUMNS WE WILL TRY TO COVER SOME OF THE OTHER AREAS AND EXPLAIN OUR PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING THEM.