

What is a Wrap Protector/Rock Guard?

Sacrificial Stainless Steel hinged panels to prevent rock damage to aluminum panels. These panels easier and cheaper to change than aluminum panels.

Wrap protectors have changed over the years and have become taller covering more of the aluminum panel and the brackets holding them to the trailer are more secure. There are wrap protectors available for models back thru 1969.

Your wrap protectors are subject to a lot of turbulence and pressure while traveling down the highway. They move, flex and are pushed inward toward the aluminum panel; wouldn't you feel better knowing they are still properly attached before your next trip?



What should I be checking for on my wrap protector?

- Keep stainless steel clean.
- Make sure fasteners are tight and in good condition.
- Make sure fasteners are sealed.
- Check that rivets and screws tight at hinge.
- Lubricate hinge.
- Check condition of panel behind protector
Check that rubrail behind protector is tight to aluminum panel. A loose or gapping rubrail can indicate front end may be moving.
- Clean and check aluminum panel for any signs of corrosion.

Fasteners

Two different fastener systems have been used over the years:

1. Southco ¼ turn fastener

Common issues:

- Rubber receptacle is the most common failure - rubber can deteriorate from UV rays
- They can fail over time due to vibration or be damaged if turned too far, it is 1/4 turn



2. Hat section with ¼- 20 bolt and acorn self-locking nut

Common issues:

- Rivets in brackets can become loose
- Fasteners in bracket can leak
- Bolt or nuts works loose



Check fasteners in the hinge

Rivets, screws tight and hinge tight to panel



Make sure fasteners are tight and seal heads.



While you are inspecting the hinge, lubricate the hinge to keep from binding or corroding.

Make sure rubrail is tight to panel behind protector.



You may have a few stone chips but a little bit of stainless steel cleaner will keep your wrap protector shining. Use a good stainless steel cleaner.

