

Does Your Hood Rattle?

This is How to Fix It

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This problem can range from noisy and irritating to very expensive if your hood develops major cracks from abnormal stress points. How do you know that your hood is out of alignment? Besides the obvious rattling when hitting bumps, you will commonly see abnormal wear patterns on painted surfaces or metal components.

The hood latch may show metal wear as seen in figure #1. In addition, you may have difficulty in closing the hood cable lock or have it spontaneously open when the hood bounces.

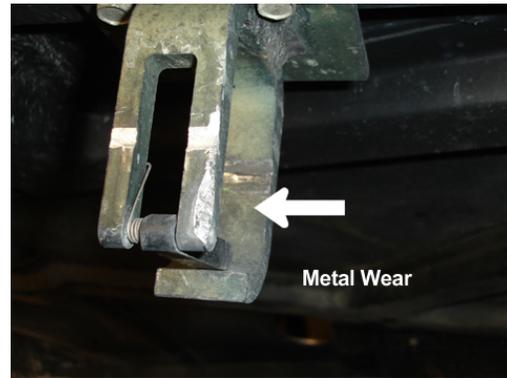
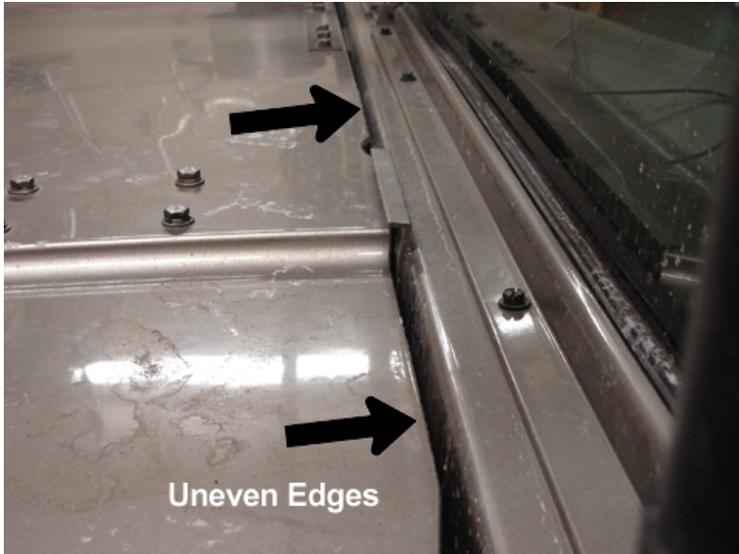


Figure #2 shows abnormal paint wear on the firewall from the hood impacting it while moving rearward during hard off-roading.



Figure #3 is a side view of the truck that reveals that the imaginary line arc from body to hood wheel well is out of alignment. The gap may also not be uniform along these surfaces.



In Figure #4, the gap between the hood and the firewall is uneven.

How do you correct this? First, you must align the rear edge of the hood. The block on the firewall is firmly fixed in the center, Figure #5. So the alignment occurs on the hood side with the sliding reciprocal surface, Figure #6.



Now, your primary alignment points will be at the front hinges that can move side-to-side or forward-backwards.

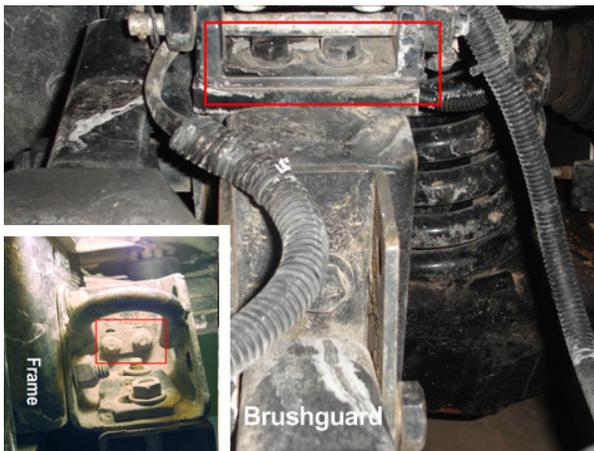


Figure #7 Illustrates the forward view of the alignment bolts and the insert on the lower left shows the corresponding nuts that are located under the truck in the center of the front hold down brackets.

With the hinge bolts loosened, move the hood side-to-side or forward-backwards until the side view arc (Figure #3) and hood gap (Figure #4) are in close tolerance when comparing the right and left sides of the truck. Once aligned, tighten all bolts. To verify that alignment is set proper, apply chalk or white lithium grease to surfaces previous showing abnormal wear patterns and verify that the hood no longer improperly hits these surfaces.