

How to Prevent Your 1963-1985

Door Panels from Warping

It always amazes me when I remove a door panel on a 1963-1985 Avanti and see no vapor barrier over the holes in the door. I can see traces of the old vapor barrier, that is no longer covering the holes as somebody decided it wasn't necessary to replace it. Studebaker and Avanti Motors installed a Black Paper over all the holes. They also installed dum dum or like a very thick tar paper under all the washers. If you don't have something covering the holes and washers (especially the large access hole) your door panel can warp, even if your Avanti doesn't go out in the rain. The humidity can warp the door panel. It is very easy and inexpensive to create, a vapor barrier from 2" (about) masking tape and also clean out the 4 door drains at the same time, that all 1963-1985 Avantis have.

Tools Needed:

- Roll 2' Masking Tape
- Can Spray Glue
- Razor Blade
- Hack Saw Blade
- Phillips Screw Driver
- Standard Screw Driver
- Door Handle Clip Remover



If you have never removed an inside door handle, or window crank handle, this is what you will be doing pushing out that clip see photo below. If you don't have one of these tools I have them in stock for about \$5.00.



By Dan Booth
Nostalgic Motor Cars

Dan Booth has over 45 years of exclusive, hands on Avanti sales, service, collision and parts, not Studebaker cars or trucks, just 1963-1985 Avantis.

Remove the inside door handle with the door handle clip remover (photo#4).

The removal tool will push out the horse shoe retainer clip from a slot. The open end of the horse shoe clip should be facing the long end of the handle, if it was installed correctly. After the clip is removed, the handle will pull straight off. Remove the window crank handle (if you have manual windows) with the same tool. If you have a 1970-1984 Avanti with the door pull strap photos #5. Remove the 2 chrome caps and then remove the 2 screws. If you have a 1985 Avanti with the arm rest and pull handle as a unit then remove 3 screws. Remove the screws that secure the door panel to the door. Lift the door panel up and off.

If you have the chrome bullet shaped outside mirror installed from 1971-1983 remove the 2 screws that secure the mirror to the door. Then turn the remote cable and chrome mirror assembly counter clock wise, leaving the chrome escutcheon and lock nut on the door panel



Avanti Repair

If you have electric mirrors, late 1983-1985, unplug the switch from the wiring harness. If you have any questions about the mirror removal, please call me before you break something Dan Booth 248-349-4884

Clean Out

There are 4 water drain slots in the bottom of all 1963-1985 Avantis. If the door is dry on the inside, I vacuum and blow out the inside of the door. I then slide a hack saw blade up through the 4 - 2½" long slots on each door bottom. Then blow up with compressed air through those 4 slots.



Avanti Motors Used to give me a roll of what appeared to be black masking tape, about 8" wide for warranty repair. That covered the access hole in one piece



I use 2' wide masking tape. The first layer of vapor barrier I stick to the door (photo BB), and spray glue over top of the original glue. Let it flash a little then place it in the bottom inside of the access hole, Photo CC



I apply spray glue to all the 2' wide tape as I am installing them. Start at the top and work your way down overlapping about 1/2". It's super important to completely cover the bottom inside the first piece you installed.



Tape up the remaining holes, and you're ready to reinstall the door panel.