

# Step By Step: Engine Trapdoor Insulation Restoration

Over the years the underside insulation of the engine trapdoor will deteriorate, get ripped & torn, and need restoration back to its original condition. This restoration cost is less than \$25 and can be done in 2-3 hours.

On early T34s (1962-63) the original diamond-pattern insulation had the foil glued onto the outer edges of the insulation. On later T34s (1964-69) the insulation was tucked inside the outer edge (see bottom pic). This diamond pattern is hard to reproduce.

**PARTS:** Visit Home Depot and buy a \$21 hot water heater fiberglass jacket (75" x 47" will do four). You'll need spray glue as well as black & chrome spray paint if you plan to restore the latches & clips.

First remove the existing insulation, the four round metal clips, two latches, & two rubber latch buffers. Use sandpaper to remove the rust & paint on the outer edge of the trapdoor metal lip. Sand down the top latch area of the trapdoor as well. Sand down the metal latch parts & clips. Respray the lid black outer edges & top latch areas. Then respray the clips & latches with chrome paint. Let these pieces dry for at least an hour before handling to avoid fingerprints. Go have a cold beer.



Original engine trapdoor insulation (above)  
Stripped engine trapdoor (below)



Cut a 34" by 23.5" piece of insulation with scissors. Apply glue to the topside of the trapdoor, then lay the insulation down. Install the four clips. Peel back the top layer of aluminum foil from the insulation and then cut the excess away from the inner rim with scissors. Spray glue the outer edge of the trapdoor and smooth down the aluminum foil, then trim with a razor blade.



For the edges (depending on your year T34), either pull the foil over the outer edges of the trapdoor & glue into place (1962-63), or tuck the foil inside the outer edges (1964-69). Install the latches & rubber latch buffers. Finally, replace the restored trapdoor in your T34 and test the function of the latches.



Insulation clip

Trapdoor latch

