

Keep Those Zippers Lubed



Some maintenance shops estimate that 90 percent of the repairs they make to HMMWV soft-top doors are for torn window zippers.

And how do those zippers get torn? Grit and sand gum up the works so that zippers don't slide easily, for one thing. For another, the thread used to install the zippers dry rots quickly.

So when a little extra muscle is used to budge a sticky zipper, the whole thing often rips loose from the door.

Here's the best thing to do to prevent damage:

- ✘ Remove grit and sand caught in the zipper teeth with an old toothbrush. Then lube the teeth with zipper lube. NSN 9150-00-999-7548 gets you a box of 24 lube sticks. The lube is Item 29 in the Expendable/Durable Supplies and Materials List in TM 9-2320-280-10.

- ✘ Run a little zipper lube over the threads that hold the zipper in the door, too. That'll help keep the threads from drying out and rotting so fast.

How often you have to clean the zippers and lube them depends on where your HMMWVs are located. If there's lots of sand around, it may be more often than the monthly check and lube shown as Item 75 in the -10's PMCS. Just make sure the lube's used before strong-arm tactics.

