



Frank M. Ligon
Director
Service Engineering Operations
Ford Customer Service Division

Ford Motor Company
P. O. Box 1904
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

October 30, 2006

TO: All U.S. Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealers

SUBJECT: Safety Recall 06S45:
Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Five Hundred, Mercury Montego, and
Certain 2005-2006 Ford Freestyle Vehicles Located in 31 Cold/Wet Weather States
Door Latch Freezing

REF: Regional Safety Recall 06R13 Addressing Door Latch Freezing in 19 Non-Cold/Wet
Weather States dated October 30, 2006

REF: Awareness Communication Dated October 2, 2006

REASON FOR THIS SAFETY RECALL

The door latches on certain 2005 model year Ford Five Hundred and Mercury Montego, and certain 2005-2006 Freestyle vehicles may not latch when operated in areas that experience temperatures significantly below freezing in combination with a wet environment. If not latched properly, a door may open while driving. Vehicles currently registered in the 31 cold, wet weather states listed below are included in the 06S45 Safety Program.

Concurrently, we are launching Regional Recall 06R13 to provide the same coverage to owners of vehicles currently registered in the remaining 19 states listed below. This program will inform them that if their vehicle is operated in cold, wet winter weather conditions described above, or in the event they relocate or travel to one of the affected cold, wet winter weather states, they may return to their dealer to have the 06S45 remedy performed at no-charge.

AFFECTED VEHICLES

- Certain 2005 model year Ford Five Hundred and Mercury Montego vehicles built at the Chicago Assembly Plant from Job #1 through June 20, 2005.
- Certain 2005-2006 model year Ford Freestyle vehicles built at the Chicago Assembly Plant from Job #1 through December 14, 2005.

SERVICE ACTION

At no charge to the vehicle owner, dealers are to install the remedy kit as directed in Attachment III, and lubricate all four door latches on all the affected vehicles. (See Attachment III for specific instructions.)

This service must be performed on affected vehicles at no charge to the vehicle owner.

OWNER NOTIFICATION MAILING SCHEDULE

Owners of affected vehicles in Safety Recall 06S45 will be notified by mail November 6, 2006. Dealers should repair any affected vehicles that arrive at their dealerships, whether or not the customer has received a letter.

The vehicles affected by Safety Recall 06S45 are currently registered in the 31 states listed below (and all Canadian Provinces).

Alaska	Colorado	Connecticut	Delaware	Idaho	Illinois
Indiana	Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky	Maine	Maryland
Massachusetts	Michigan	Minnesota	Missouri	Montana	Nebraska
New Hampshire	New Jersey	New York	North Dakota	Ohio	Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	South Dakota	Utah	Vermont	West Virginia	Wisconsin
Wyoming					

The vehicles affected by Regional Recall 06R13 are currently registered in the 19 states listed below.

Alabama	Arizona	Arkansas	California	Florida
Georgia	Louisiana	Mississippi	Nevada	New Mexico
North Carolina	Oklahoma	Oregon	South Carolina	Tennessee
Texas	Virginia	Washington	Hawaii	

Each VIN is only affected by one program (either 06R13 or 06S45), and identified in OASIS. In addition, for a list of vehicles assigned to your dealership, visit <https://web.fsavinlists.dealerconnection.com>. This information will be available on November 1, 2006.

PLEASE NOTE:

Federal law requires dealers to complete this recall service before a new vehicle is delivered to the buyer or lessee. Violation of this requirement by a dealer could result in a civil penalty of up to \$6,000 per vehicle. Correct all vehicles in your new vehicle inventory before delivery.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I: Administrative Information
Attachment II: Labor Allowances and Parts Ordering Information
Attachment III: Technical Information
Customer Notification Letter

QUESTIONS & ASSISTANCE

Special Service Support Center (Dealer Only)1-800-325-5621

Sincerely,



Frank M. Ligon

Safety Recall 06S45

Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Five Hundred, Mercury Montego, and
Certain 2005-2006 Ford Freestyle Vehicles
Door Latch Freezing

OASIS ACTIVATED?

Yes. OASIS will be activated by October 30, 2006.

FSA VIN LIST ACTIVATED?

Yes. Available through FMCDDealer.com or at <https://web.fsavinlists.dealerconnection.com> by November 1, 2006. Owner names and addresses will be available by November 13, 2006.

NOTE: Your FSA VIN list may contain owner names and addresses obtained from motor vehicle registration records. The use of such motor vehicle registration data for any purpose other than in connection with this recall is a violation of law in several states, provinces, and countries. Accordingly, you must limit the use of this listing to the follow-up necessary to complete this recall action.

STOCK VEHICLES

Correct all affected units in your new vehicle inventory before delivery.

SOLD VEHICLES

- Owners of affected vehicles will be directed to dealers for repairs.
- Immediately contact any of your affected owners whose vehicles are not on your VIN lists but are identified in OASIS. Give the owner a copy of the Customer Notification Letter (when available) and schedule a service date.
- Correct other affected vehicles identified in OASIS which are brought to your dealership.

TITLE BRANDED / SALVAGED VEHICLES

Affected title branded and salvaged vehicles are eligible for this Field Service Action.

RELATED DAMAGE

If a related damage condition exists that you believe to be caused by the covered condition, call the Special Service Support Center to request approval **prior** to the repair of any related damage. Requests for approval after completion of the repair will not be granted. Ford Motor Company reserves the right to deny coverage for related damage in cases where the vehicle owner has not had this recall performed on a timely basis.

ADDITIONAL LABOR TIME

If a condition exists that requires additional labor to complete the repair, call the Special Service Support Center to request approval **prior** to performing any additional labor. Requests for approval after completion of the repair will not be granted.

Safety Recall 06S45

Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Five Hundred, Mercury Montego, and
Certain 2005-2006 Ford Freestyle Vehicles
Door Latch Freezing

OWNER REFUNDS

- Ford Motor Company is offering a refund for owner-paid repairs for frozen door latches covered by this recall if the repair was performed prior to the date indicated in the reimbursement plan, which is posted with this bulletin. This plan is also available to owners through the Customer Relationship Center (CRC). The CRC will direct owners to seek reimbursement through authorized dealers or, at their option, directly through Ford Motor Company at P.O. Box 6251, Dearborn, MI 48121-6251.
- Dealers are also authorized to refund owner-paid emergency repairs that were performed away from an authorized servicing dealer after the end date specified in the reimbursement plan. Refund claims that include other non-covered repairs, or those judged by Ford to be excessive, will not be accepted for reimbursement.
- ***This safety recall must still be performed, even if the customer has paid for a previous repair. Claiming a refund will not close the recall on the vehicle.***
- Refund Claiming Information (Submit on separate repair line.)
 - Program Code: 06S45
 - Misc. Expense: REFUND
 - Misc. Expense: ADMIN
 - Misc. Expense: 0.2 Hrs.

RENTAL VEHICLES

The use of rental vehicles is not authorized for this program.

CLAIMS PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

- Enter claims using Direct Warranty Entry (DWE).
- Refund or related damage must be claimed on a repair line that is separate from the repair line on which the FSA is claimed. Related damage requires approval from Special Service Support Center.
- "MT" labor should be submitted on a separate repair line with the related damage flag checked. "MT" labor requires approval from Special Service Support Center.
- Refer to ACESII manual for claims preparation and submission information.

Safety Recall 06S45

Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Five Hundred, Mercury Montego, and
 Certain 2005-2006 Ford Freestyle Vehicles
 Door Latch Freezing

LABOR ALLOWANCES

Description	Labor Operation	Labor Time
Five Hundred/Montego: Install Rain Hats, Grease 4 Door Latches	06S45B	0.9 Hour
Freestyle (Job#1 through June 20, 2005): Install Rain Hats, Grease 4 Door Latches, Install Tape to Rear Doors	06S45C	1.0 Hour
Freestyle (June 21, 2005 Through December 14, 2005): Grease 4 Door Latches, Install Tape to Rear Doors	06S45D	0.5 Hour

PARTS REQUIREMENTS / ORDERING INFORMATION

Parts will not be direct shipped for this program. Order your parts requirements through normal order processing channels.

Part Number	Description	Application	Quantity
5F9Z-218B48-A	Shield Door Latch Kit Note: Approximately 85% of affected vehicles will require this kit.	Five Hundred/Montego – All Freestyle (Job#1 through June 20, 2005)	1
5F9Z-218B48-B	Door Latch Repair Kit Note: Approximately 15% of affected vehicles will require this kit.	Freestyle (June 21, 2005 Through December 14, 2005)	1

The DOR/COR for this program is 50368. This number identifies parts ordered for this recall through the Parts Support Center (1-800-207-2444). E-mail: Ford@Renkim.com

DEALER PRICE

For latest prices, refer to DOES II.

PARTS RETENTION AND RETURN

Follow the provisions of the Warranty and Policy Manual for "Parts Retention and Return Procedures".

EXCESS STOCK RETURN

Excess stock returned for credit must have been purchased from Ford Customer Service Division in accordance with Policy Procedure Bulletin 4000.

**CERTAIN 2005 MODEL YEAR FIVE HUNDRED, MONTEGO
AND CERTAIN 2005 AND 2006 MODEL YEAR FREESTYLE VEHICLES —
DOOR LATCH WATER PROTECTION**

OVERVIEW

Depending on vehicle and build date, this program will involve installing rain hats onto the door latches inside both front doors and/or installing a piece of polyethylene tape under the belt moulding on the rear doors. Also, all door latches will be greased using a pre-filled, specially marked syringe.

See the following chart to determine which operations to perform on the vehicle being serviced.

Vehicle	Vehicle Build Date	Front Door		Rear Door		Applicable Service Kit
		Rain Hat	Grease	Tape	Grease	
Five Hundred/ Montego	Job#1 through June 20, 2005	X	X		X	5F9Z-218B48-A
Freestyle	Job#1 through June 20, 2005	X	X	X	X	5F9Z-218B48-A
Freestyle	June 21, 2005 through December 14, 2005		X	X	X	5F9Z-218B48-B

SERVICE KIT CONTENTS

Part Number	Description	Quantity	Application Use	
5F9Z-218B48-A	Shield Door Latch Kit	1	Freestyle (Job#1 to June 20, 2005)	2005 Five Hundred/Montego
Bill of Material				
23726	Tape	3*	2	0
19G208	Syringe w/Grease	1	1	1
74220W98	RH Shield	1	1	1
74220W99	LH Shield	1	1	1
63218B02	Pushpins	3*	2	2


Part Number	Description	Quantity	Application Use	
5F9Z-218B48-B	Door Latch Kit	1	Freestyle (June 21, 2005 through December 14, 2005)	
Bill of Material				
23726	Tape	3*	2	
19G208	Syringe w/Grease	1	1	

*One extra tape and pushpin are included in both kits.



FRONT DOOR REPAIR — ALL FIVE HUNDRED AND MONTEGO VEHICLES AND CERTAIN FREESTYLE VEHICLES

NOTE: Freestyle vehicles built from June 21, 2005 through December 14, 2005 do not require rain hat installation. Proceed directly to Door Latch Greasing — All Vehicles in this Attachment III.

NOTE: This repair is a “blind” operation. Once the door trim panel is removed, you will not be able to see the top of the door latch where the rain hat is to be installed. A short video (approximately 60 seconds long) has been developed and is available for viewing. Click the icon to view the video. 

The video and the illustrations contained in this Attachment III were produced using a driver side door with the outer sheet metal and a few other interior door components removed. This was necessary ONLY for visual reference.

***FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS ATTACHMENT III
WITHOUT ANY FURTHER DISASSEMBLY.***

DOOR TRIM PANEL REMOVAL

1. Remove the exterior mirror trim cover from the inner door panel, then disconnect the mirror control switch electrical connector.
2. Remove the front door handle bezel screw cover, the screw and then the bezel.
3. Remove the two (2) front door handle trim cover screws.
4. **CAUTION: Avoid pulling directly on the upper rear corner (vinyl portion) of the door trim panel during removal to prevent damage to the door trim panel.**
Remove the five (5) front door trim panel screws, then gently pull the door panel straight off the door to disengage the retaining clips.
5. Disconnect the power window/door lock switch electrical connector.
6. If equipped with power memory seat, disconnect the power memory seat electrical connector, then remove the front door trim panel from the vehicle.
7. Remove the water shield from the door module oval opening.



RAIN HAT INSTALLATION

1. Reach into the opening to locate and remove the existing door latch cable shield as follows:
 - a) Lift the shield up off the cable.
 - b) Disengage the tab from the latch, then remove and discard the shield. See Figure 1.

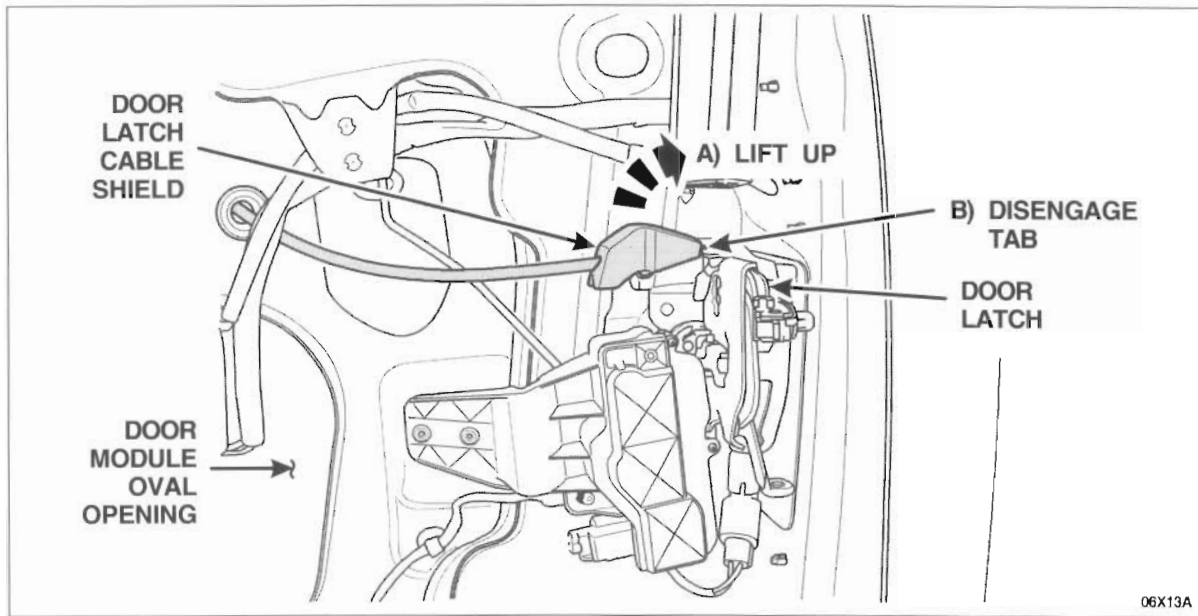


FIGURE 1

2. NOTE: The rain hats are embossed with an "L" or an "R" to identify on which side of the vehicle they are to be installed. See Figure 2.

NOTE: **BE SURE TO INSTALL THE PUSHPIN INTO THE RAIN HAT FIRST, then install the rain hat onto the door latch.**

Insert the supplied pushpin into the rain hat. See Figure 2.

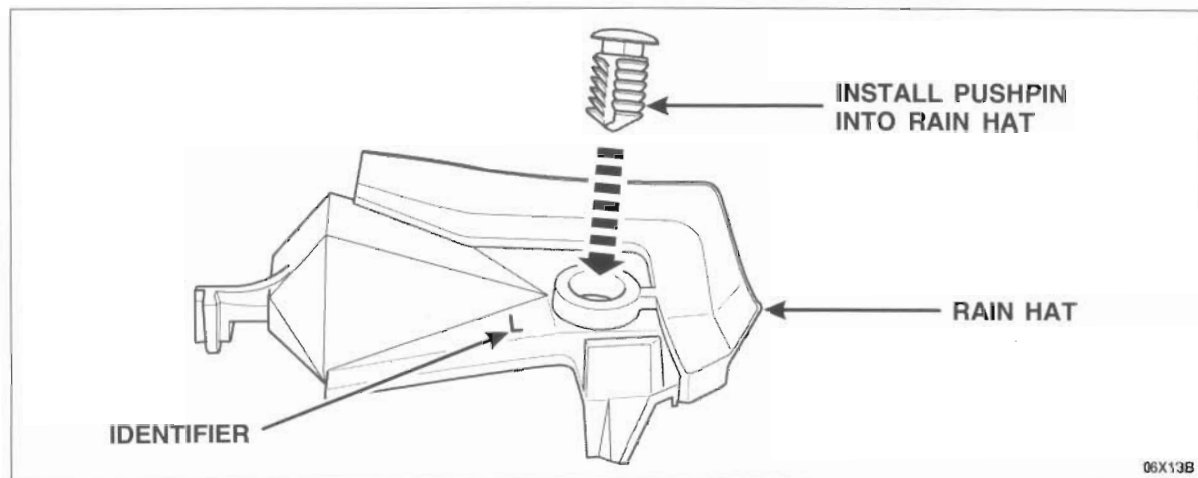


FIGURE 2



3. Install the rain hat as follows:
 - a) Position the rain hat cable hook feature onto the door latch cable. See Figure 3.
 - b) Lay the rain hat down onto the latch cable and slide the rain hat into position over the latch with the gasketed edges of the rain hat against the door sheet metal. See Figures 4 and 5.
 - c) Seat the pushpin into the latch. See Figure 5.

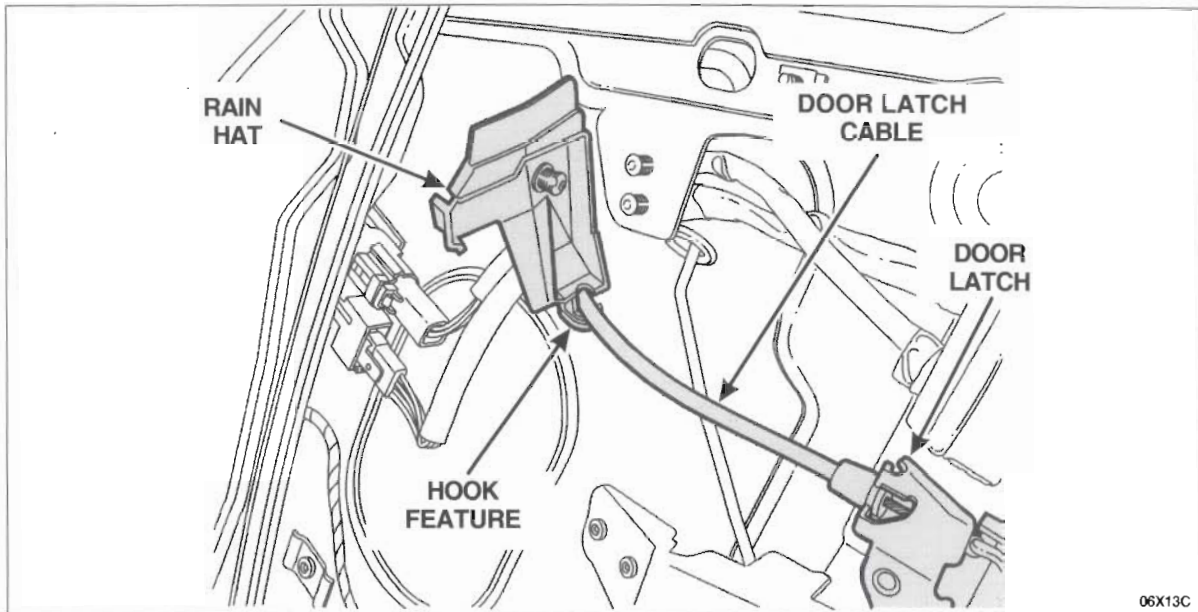


FIGURE 3

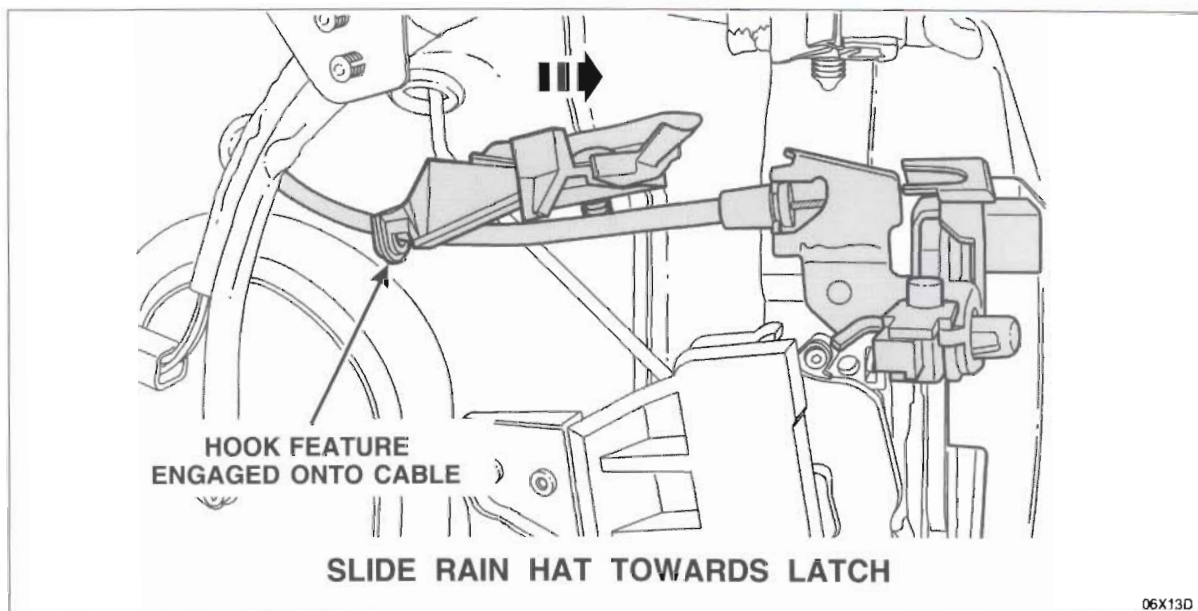


FIGURE 4



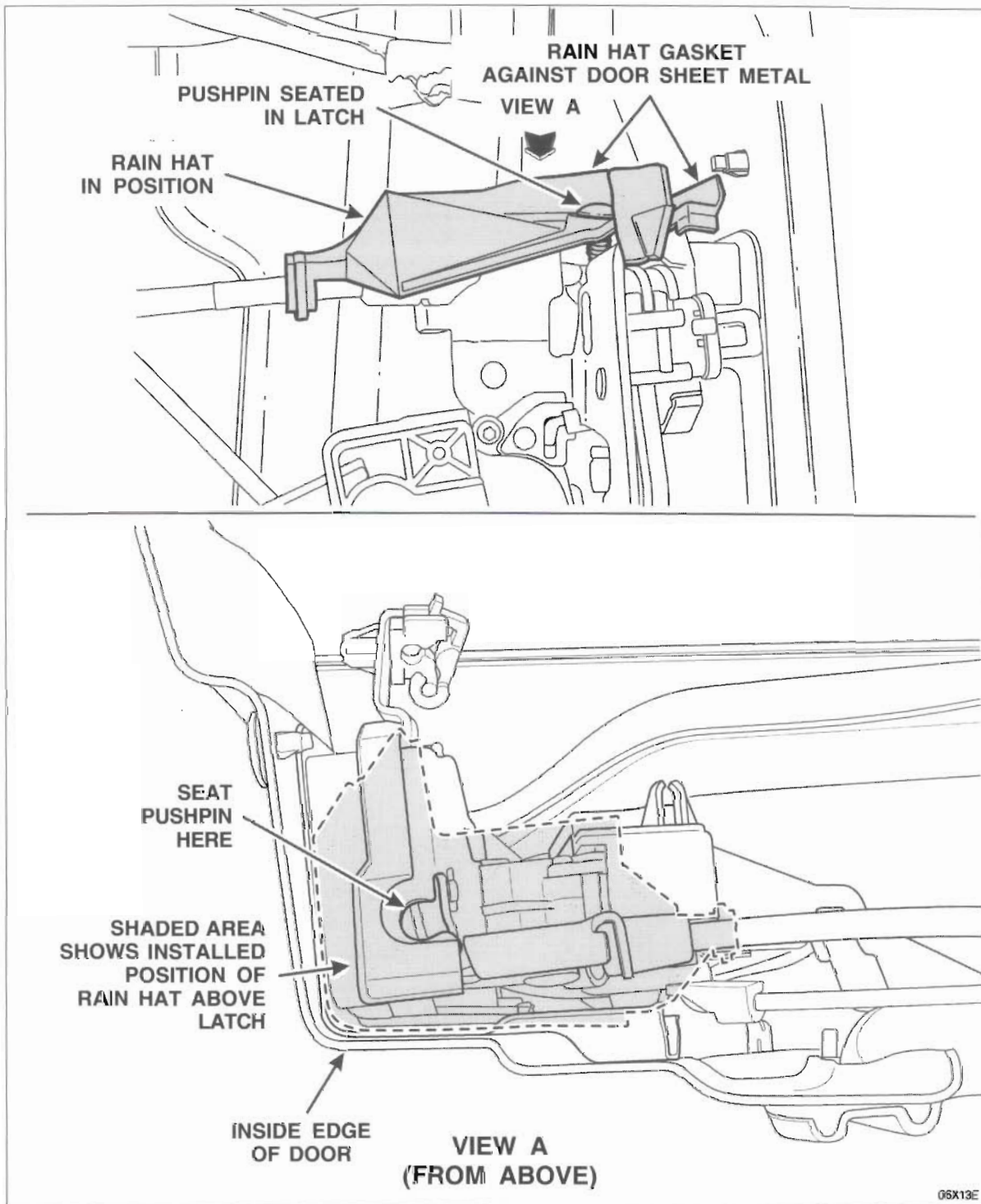


FIGURE 5



DOOR TRIM PANEL INSTALLATION

1. Reinstall the water shield.
2. Reinstall the door trim panel, connecting the power seat memory connector, if equipped, and the power window/door lock switch connectors.
3. Make sure all retaining clips are securely fastened to the door, then reinstall the trim panel screws.
4. Install the front door handle trim cover screws.
5. Install the front door handle bezel, screw and cover.
6. Connect and install the exterior mirror trim cover.

DOOR LATCH GREASING — ALL VEHICLES

NOTE: This operation is to be performed on all four (4) door latches of all affected vehicles.

NOTE: A single syringe of latch grease contains enough material for one (1) vehicle. The syringe is marked indicating the amount of grease to be applied to each door latch.

1. Remove the door latch upper screw located toward the outside of the door. See Figure 6.

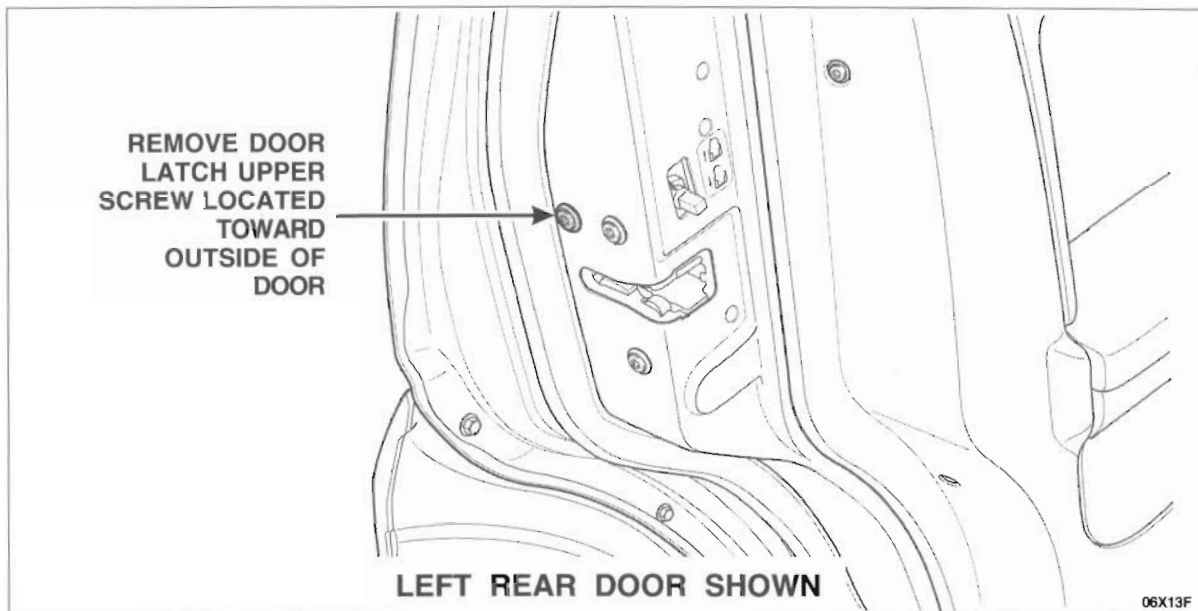


FIGURE 6



2. Fully insert the tip of the syringe into the screw hole and apply approximately one (1) unit of grease (one graduation mark on the syringe). See Figure 7.
3. Wipe away any excess grease then reinstall the latch screw. Tighten the screw to 12 Nm (9 lb-ft).

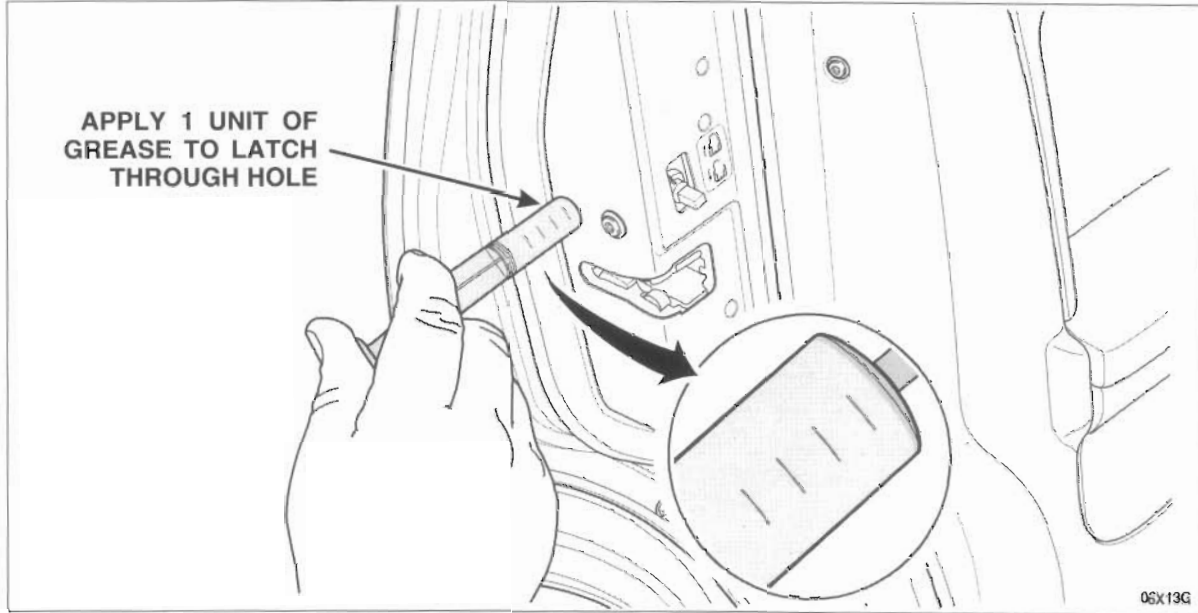


FIGURE 7



REAR DOOR REPAIR — FREESTYLE ONLY

1. Completely lower both rear windows.
2. Open the rear door and remove the belt moulding screw. See Figure 8.

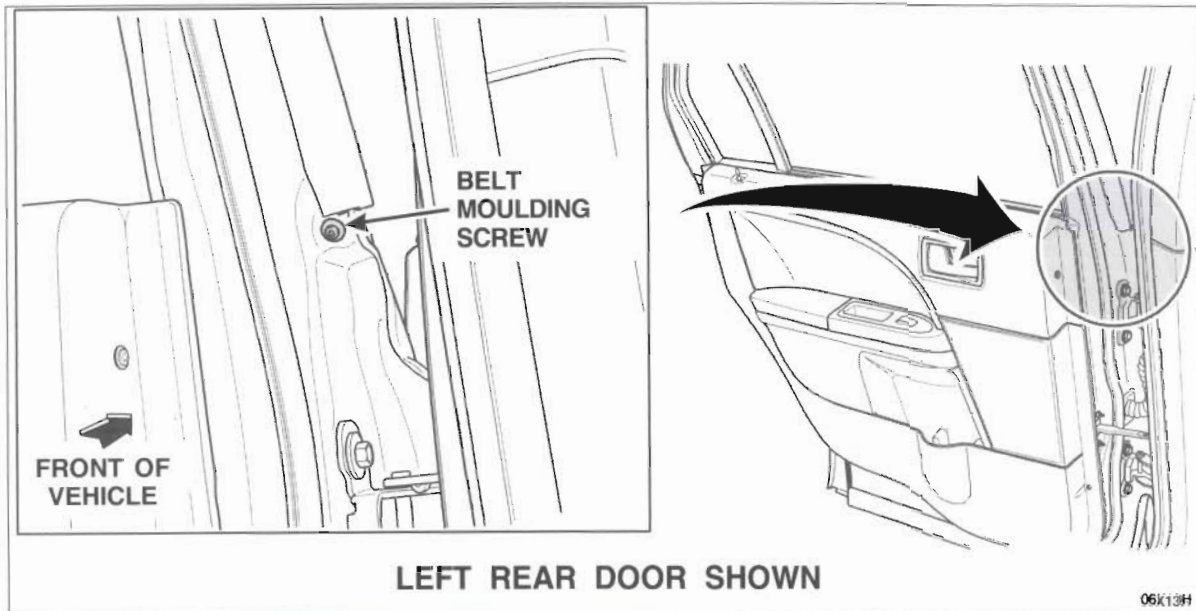


FIGURE 8

3. **CAUTION:** Use care not to bend the moulding during removal. The fastener at the rear end of the moulding will not reattach to the clip on the door if the moulding is bent. Adjust (straighten) the moulding if necessary.
Remove the belt moulding by lifting the back end up first and then working the moulding out of the channel.
4. **CAUTION:** The surfaces the tape is being affixed to must be clean and dry or the tape will not properly adhere. It will be pushed out of position when the belt moulding is reinstalled and not provide the water protection it is designed for. Make certain the surface where the tape will be affixed is clean of all contaminants (dirt, dust, grime, tape adhesive residue).
Using a clean rag, wipe the door clean around the rear of the channel.



5. Peel the backing off a piece of supplied polyethylene tape and apply it as follows: See Figure 9.
 - a) Position the tape so that it covers approximately 20 mm (3/4 in) of the rear of the channel.
 - b) Position the tape so that it is affixed to the horizontal surface of the rubber trim at the bottom of the glass. Keep the tape on the horizontal surface only or it may be visible after the belt moulding is reinstalled.
 - c) Press the tape firmly into place.

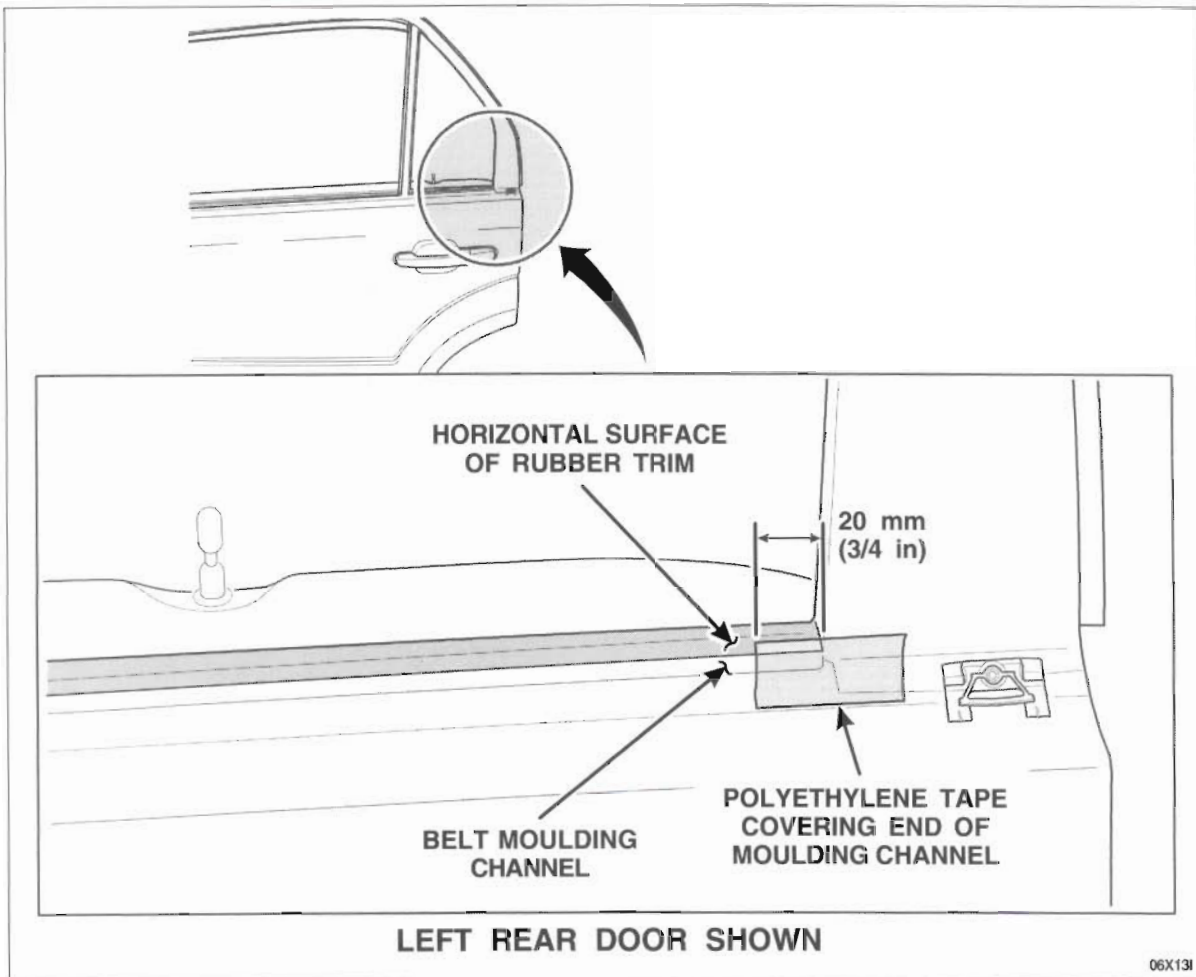


FIGURE 9

6. Reinstall the moulding by first installing the front end of the moulding in the channel then **pushing it down and through the polyethylene tape**, then attach the moulding to the clip at the rear of the door. The moulding should sit flush against the door.
7. NOTE: The kit includes only one (1) extra tape strip.

Check to make sure the tape is not visible after the moulding is installed. If it is, remove the moulding and the tape, clean the area of all adhesive residue, then repeat Steps 4 through 7 using the extra piece of tape in the kit. Do not reapply the same piece of tape.
8. Reinstall the belt moulding screw.
9. Perform Steps 2 through 8 on the other rear door.

