U.S. Department of Transportation

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V049

**Manufacturer Name:** Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing

**Submission Date:** Jan 28, 2026

**NHTSA Recall No.:** 26V049

**Manufacturer Recall No.:** 26TB03 / 26TA03

## Manufacturer Information

**Manufacturer Name:** Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing

**Address:** 6565 Headquarters Drive
Plano TX, 75024

## Population

**Total number of potentially involved:** 141,286

**Estimated percentage with defect:** 1%

## Vehicle Information

**Vehicle 1:** 2025-2026 TOYOTA PRIUS PLUG-IN HYBRID

**Product Category:** Light Vehicles

**Product Type:**

**Fuel / Propulsion:**

**Production Dates:** Dec 26, 2024 - Nov 03, 2025

**Number of potentially involved:** 15,528

**Descriptive Information:**

Although the involved vehicles are within the above production period range, not all vehicles in this range were sold in the U.S. This issue only affects 2023-2026MY Prius and Prius Prime vehicles equipped with electric rear door lock system with a door opener switch manufactured by a specific supplier and during a specific production period. Other Toyota and Lexus vehicles sold in the U.S. are either equipped with a different electric rear door lock system or do not have an electric rear door lock system and do not have the condition described in this report. Unknown. Toyota is unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Whether water enters the door opener switch and causes a short circuit that could lead to a door switch activation depends on various conditions, as described further below. However, as the NHTSA manufacturer portal requires an integer value be entered, Toyota has entered the value “1” in response to this question in the portal. For the purpose of this report, “1” means “unknown”.

**Vehicle 2:** 2023-2026 TOYOTA PRIUS

**Product Category:** Light Vehicles

**Product Type:**

**Fuel / Propulsion:**

**Production Dates:** Oct 11, 2022 - Nov 03, 2025

**Number of potentially involved:** 102,515

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V049

**Descriptive Information:**

Although the involved vehicles are within the above production period range, not all vehicles in this range were sold in the U.S. This issue only affects 2023-2026MY Prius and Prius Prime vehicles equipped with electric rear door lock system with a door opener switch manufactured by a specific supplier and during a specific production period. Other Toyota and Lexus vehicles sold in the U.S. are either equipped with a different electric rear door lock system or do not have an electric rear door lock system and do not have the condition described in this report. Unknown. Toyota is unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Whether water enters the door opener switch and causes a short circuit that could lead to a door switch activation depends on various conditions, as described further below. However, as the NHTSA manufacturer portal requires an integer value be entered, Toyota has entered the value “1” in response to this question in the portal. For the purpose of this report, “1” means “unknown”.

**Vehicle 3:** 2023-2024 TOYOTA PRIUS PRIME

**Product Category:** Light Vehicles

**Product Type:**

**Fuel / Propulsion:**

**Production Dates:** Oct 13, 2022 - Dec 23, 2024

**Number of potentially involved:** 23,243

**Descriptive Information:**

Although the involved vehicles are within the above production period range, not all vehicles in this range were sold in the U.S. This issue only affects 2023-2026MY Prius and Prius Prime vehicles equipped with electric rear door lock system with a door opener switch manufactured by a specific supplier and during a specific production period. Other Toyota and Lexus vehicles sold in the U.S. are either equipped with a different electric rear door lock system or do not have an electric rear door lock system and do not have the condition described in this report. Unknown. Toyota is unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Whether water enters the door opener switch and causes a short circuit that could lead to a door switch activation depends on various conditions, as described further below. However, as the NHTSA manufacturer portal requires an integer value be entered, Toyota has entered the value “1” in response to this question in the portal. For the purpose of this report, “1” means “unknown”.

## Defect / Noncompliance Description

**Description of the defect or noncompliance:**

The subject vehicles are equipped with electric rear door lock system which includes a door opener switch and a rear door lock release actuator to release the latch from outside the vehicle. If the seal performance for this switch is reduced as a result of thermal cycling and water is present due to large amount of water splashes on the switch (for example, at a car wash), then closing the door with a high force can temporarily allow water to enter the switch. If the water contains detergent, this can lead to a short circuit that can cause the switch to activate. If the door is unlocked when this occurs, the door could open unexpectedly and there will be a notification on the combination meter, and a buzzer will sound if the vehicle is in motion. If the door opens unexpectedly while driving, this could increase the risk of injury to occupants.

**FMVSS1:**

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V049

**FMVSS2:**

**Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:**

If the door is unlocked when this occurs, the door could open unexpectedly and there will be a notification on the combination meter, and a buzzer will sound if the vehicle is in motion. If the door opens unexpectedly while driving, this could increase the risk of injury to occupants.

**Description of the cause:**

**Identification of any warning that can occur:**

## Component Manufacturer

**Tier of Supplier:**

**Supplier Type:**

**Name:** TOKAI RIKA CO., LTD.

**Address:** 3-260 Toyota, Oguchi-cho
Niwa-gun Foreign States, 480-0195

**Country:** Japan

## Involved Components

**Component Name 1:** Handle Assy, RR Door, Outside RH

**Component Description:** Right rear door outside handle

**Component Part Number:** 69230-47061

**Component Name 2:** Handle Assy, RR Door, Outside LH

**Component Description:** Left rear door outside handle

**Component Part Number:** 69240-47041

## Chronology

April 2024 – June 2025

In April 2024, Toyota submitted a Part 573 report (24V-274) to NHTSA for recall concerning an unexpected door opening due to insufficient waterproofing of the door opener switch. In February 2025,

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V049

Toyota received a field report from the Japan market indicating that a rear right door had opened to a half-latch position while driving. The rear door outside handle, which had been repaired as a part of a recall on vehicles in Japan for the same issue (as 24V-274), was recovered and sent to the supplier for the investigation.

The investigation of the recovered part by the supplier found signs of water intrusion and surfactants (such as from car wash detergent) on the circuit board inside the door opener. As a result, Toyota began conducting water splash testing on a current production part. It was confirmed during this test that water could reach the sealed portion of the switch. However, no water intrusion was found. The supplier further investigated the issue and compared the sealing condition between the recovered part and a newly produced part. It found that the seal contact area of the recovered part was reduced compared to a production part, but the sealing performance was maintained.

July 2025 – January 2026

In July 2025, Toyota initiated good parts recovery from the field to confirm the contact area of the seal in vehicles in the field. From the recovered parts, Toyota observed that the seal contact area was reduced over time. Toyota hypothesized the reduction of seal contact area may be caused by a thermal cycling. The supplier then began thermal testing. The test indicated that the seal contact area had been reduced to a certain level; however, even the area with the least amount of seal contact still prevented water intrusion.

Toyota hypothesized there would need to be another factor to reduce the seal contact area to the point of permitting water intrusion. In October 2025, Toyota conducted a test to evaluate whether the impact of closing the door affects the seal contact area. The test confirmed the seal contact area was temporarily reduced when closing the door with a high force. As a result, Toyota conducted water intrusion test again using the minimum seal contact area and confirmed that closing the door with a high force temporarily allowed water to enter the switch. Toyota also evaluated different mixtures of water and other substances to determine what can cause the door switch to activate in the event that water intrusion causes a short. Toyota found water with surfactants (e.g., car wash detergent) can cause the switch to activate.

Based on the above investigation, Toyota determined that if the seal performance for this switch is reduced due to thermal cycling and water, with surfactants such as detergent, is present due to large amount of water splashes on the switch (for example, at a car wash), then closing the door with a high force can temporarily allow water to enter the switch, leading to a short circuit that can activate the door switch. If the door is not locked, the short circuit could cause the door to open unexpectedly.

January 22, 2026

Based on the results of the above investigation, Toyota decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall campaign.

As of January 21, 2026, based on a diligent review of records, Toyota's best engineering judgment is that there are no Toyota Field Technical Reports and three warranty claims that have been received from U.S. sources that relate or may relate to this condition, and which were considered in the decision to submit this report.

**Related NHTSA Recall Number:**

## Description of Remedy

**Remedy Type:**

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V049

**Consumer Advisories:** ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

**Description of remedy program:**

All known owners of the subject vehicles will be notified to return their vehicles to a Toyota dealer. For all involved vehicles, Toyota dealers will modify the left and right rear door switch circuits to prevent the switch from activating even if it is shorted.

Reimbursement Plan for pre-notification remedies:
The owner letter will instruct vehicle owners who have paid to have this condition remedied prior to this campaign to seek reimbursement pursuant to Toyota's General Reimbursement Plan.

**How remedy component differs from recalled component:**

**Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:**

## Reimbursement Plan

Manufacturer used general reimbursement plan on file.

## Recall Schedule

**Description of recall schedule:**

Notifications to owners of the affected vehicles will occur by March 29, 2026. A copy of the draft owner notification will be submitted as soon as it is available. Notifications to distributors/dealers will be sent on January 28, 2026. Copies of dealer communications will be submitted as they are issued.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date:** Jan 28, 2026 - Jan 28, 2026 ☐ No Dealers

**Planned Interim Owner Notification Date:** ☐ No Owners

**Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date:** Mar 15, 2026 - Mar 29, 2026 ☐ Phased Recall

**Date when VIN will be searchable:**