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## How Windshield Repair Works

By Gray Rollins

Just because you get a chip doesn't mean you need to foot the cost of getting a new windshield.

Why not do a windshield repair, which uses modern technology to quickly and efficiently repair the windshield, It's a much more cost effective solution. Here's how windshield repair works.

If you think about it, you'll agree that ordinary house glass is pretty amazing. It's strong, clear, and really quite affordable. Its only real drawback is that it is brittle so when it breaks it can create dangerous shards, making it a poor choice for automobile glass.

Plastic is safer, but it isn't scratch resistant so it doesn't remain clear enough for automobile glass. Auto manufacturers' use tempered glass on the side windows which is much stronger than house glass and when it does break, it breaks into tiny little cubes that aren't as dangerous as shards. They can still be sharp but they are far safer.

But tempered glass doesn't work for windshields. Because the windshield is constantly being hit with tiny pebbles, sand, gravel, and other road debris, tempered glass would have a very short life span. So manufacturers started using laminated glass years ago.

Laminated glass is simply two thin sheets of tempered glass that are fused to a rubber inner layer. The two sheets are independent. What the rubber layer does is act like a sponge, absorbing the shock and reducing the chance of breakage from small particles like pebbles.

If a rock hits the window hard enough you'll land up with a stone chip, but it usually only breaks the outer layer of glass. If something really big hits the window and shatters both layers, the rubber membrane will stop the windshield from falling in your lap. Windshield repair works for the rock chips that have damaged the outer layer of the glass.

Start by buying a windshield crack repair kit at Wal-Mart, Sears, Canadian Tire, Lordco or other department or auto stores. Once you've got your kit, dry the windshield to room temperature. Don't bother trying to do the repair on a wet day unless you can park inside.

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Use a hair dryer to dry the window. This will pull the moisture out of the window so that the repair works. If the windshield is dirty, clean it using a harsh cleaner such as lighter fluid. This will remove any grime or film.

The repair process is very straightforward. Peel the back of the adhesive strip and apply it to the pre-cleaned glass. Center it over the chip, then burnish with a blunt object. Peel away the remaining film. Line up the adapter so it's as vertical as possible, and then stick it to the film. Again, burnish with a blunt object.

Take the cap off the syringe and attach it to the adapter. Pull the syringe out as far as it goes. Hold this position for one minute to create a vacuum. While you are holding the vacuum the air in the crack begins to bubble up in the syringe while at the same time the adhesive seeps deep into the glass and chip.

That's it. Your chip is repaired. The adhesive is a type of resin that bonds with the chip and creates a seal, and thus a repair. You can also use the windshield repair kit on cracks. Once you've correctly done the repair, the glass will no longer spider and the damage won't spread.

Gray Rollins is a featured writer for WindshieldMend. To learn more about auto glass repair, visit us at

<http://www.windshieldmend.com/>

and

<http://www.windshieldmend.com/crackedwindshieldrepair/>

### **How to Create an Emergency Repair Disk**

**By Stephen Bucaro**

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#### How to Create an Emergency Repair Disk

By Stephen Bucaro

If your operating system is Windows XP Professional or

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Windows 2000, it isn't bootable with a boot disk. With these operating systems you need an Emergency Repair Disk that works with the systems built-in repair functions.

Note: Windows XP Home Edition doesn't use an Emergency Repair Disk, instead it uses the Windows Me style System Restore feature.

To create an Emergency Repair Disk, prepare a formatted floppy disk and label it "Emergency Repair Disk" along with the date and specify which computer it was made with. An Emergency Repair Disk is specific to the system that you created it on.

Click Start | Programs | Accessories | System Tools | Backup. The Backup utility window will appear. Click on the "Emergency Repair Disk" button. When prompted to, insert the formatted floppy disk that you prepared into the floppy disk drive. Set the check box to also backup the registry. Then click on the "OK" button.

After the Emergency Repair Disk has been written, click the "OK" button and remove the disk.

If your computer fails to start, the Emergency Repair Disk will help you repair your system files. It works with information stored in your computer's C:\WINNT\repair folder.

To use the Emergency Repair Disk to restore your computer:

1. Make sure your BIOS is configured to boot from the CD-ROM Drive. Then start your computer from your Windows XP Professional or Windows 2000 setup CD. You may be prompted to press a key to boot from the CD-ROM drive.
2. You will be prompted if you want to set up Windows 2000, or if you want to repair a damaged system. To repair a damaged system press "R".
3. You will be prompted if you want to use the Recovery Console or if you want to use the Emergency Repair Process to repair your system. Press "R" to repair using the Emergency Repair Process.
4. You will be prompted if you want to use the manual repair

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option or the fast repair option. The fast repair option does not require any user interaction. The manual repair option should be used only by experienced users. Press "F" to use the Fast Repair option.

5. You will be asked if you have the Emergency Repair Disk or if you want Windows 2000 to attempt to locate Windows 2000 for you. Press "Enter" if you have the Emergency Repair Disk.

6. You will be prompted to insert the Windows 2000 Emergency Repair Disk. Insert the disk into the floppy drive and press "Enter".

With a little luck Windows 2000 will be able to repair itself. Most people don't consider creating an Emergency Repair Disk until their computer fails to start – then it's too late. Why not take a minute to make one now?

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