

HOW TO FIX A DENTED COMPANY VEHICLE

Dents can be fixed by either pushing out the dent from behind or pulling on it from the front. The latter is more difficult, but may be your only hope if you cannot access the back of the dented panel.

1 Check the location of the dent.

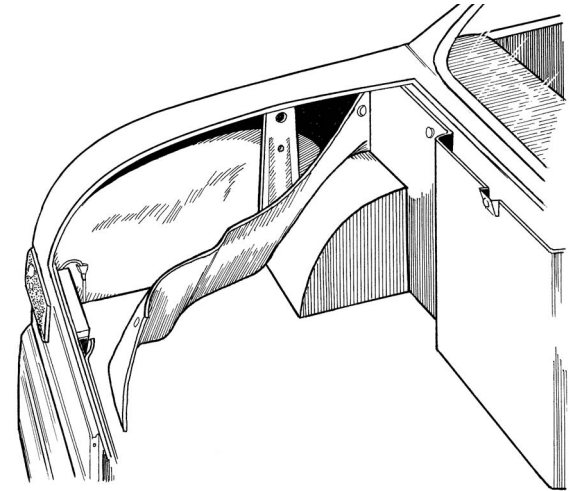
Dents on quarter panels, trunks, hoods, and fenders are relatively easy to fix. If the dent is in the door or on the roof, or if the dent is very sharp or deep, see “Make a Glue Puller,” page 148.

2 Access the rear of the panel.

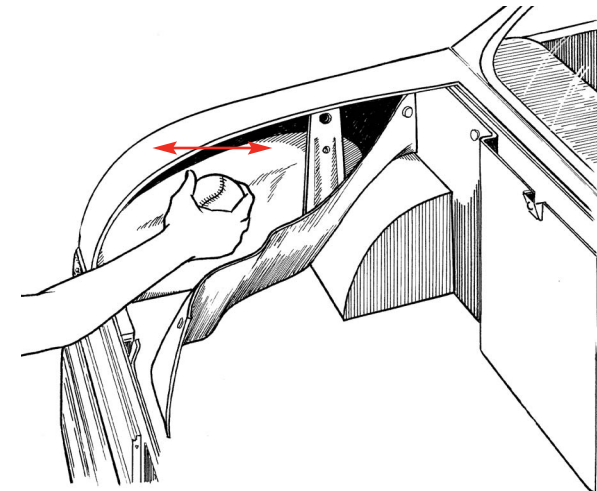
If the dent is on the hood or trunk, open the hood or trunk to access the back of the panel. If the dent is on a fender, remove the plastic liner panel (which may require removing plastic screws) to gain access to the sheet metal. If the dent is on a quarter panel, pull back the carpet or trunk liner until you see the metal plate.

3 Push out the dent with your hand.

Press firmly but gently. For better results, use a golf ball, baseball, or other hard, round object to push out the dent. Small dents will require greater pressure. Do not push too hard or you will create a dent in the other direction; sheet metal on cars is very thin.



Pull back the trunk liner to reveal metal plate.



Use a baseball to roll out the dent. Press firmly but gently.

MAKE A GLUE PULLER

You will need: hot-glue gun, wood-glue sticks (amber, not white), denatured alcohol, and a dowel rod (2 inches by 18 to 24 inches long).

1 Insert a glue stick into the glue gun.

2 Plug in the glue gun.

Allow the gun to heat for 5 to 10 minutes.

3 Clean the dent.

Use a clean cloth to rub alcohol on the dent to strip any wax from the area and ensure a good bond.

4 Coat the dowel rod with glue.

Cover a 1-inch section at the tip of the dowel rod with the melted glue.

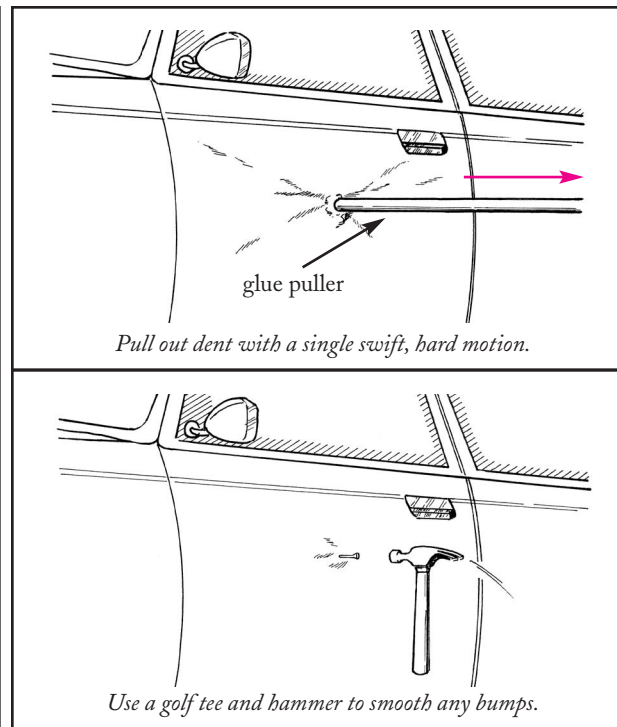
5 Press the dowel into the dent.

Immediately place the glue-covered end of the dowel rod into the center of the dented area. Hold it very still against the steel for 1 to 2 minutes or until the glue is dry. Do not wiggle the dowel rod or you will break the bond.

6 Yank the dowel rod.

Use a single swift, hard motion to pull the dent out. The dowel should also pull free of the car.

7 Repeat, if necessary.



8 Smooth out any bumps.

If you pulled too hard and there is now a bump, flatten the high spot by placing the tip of a golf tee over the bulge. Tap a hammer against the wide end of the tee until the bump is flush. This method should not remove the paint.

9 Remove excess glue.

Pour alcohol on a clean cloth and rub the panel to remove any glue that remains.