



Do your feet get soaked every time it rains? Do your Nike's need a retread from dragging on the pavement? Are you tired of asking your passengers to please keep their feet inside the car? The problem is obvious — the floor pan of your prized VW is rusted clean through.

Your arch nemesis *rust* is at it again, this time attacking from the bottom of your car up. Rusted out pans are a serious concern for several reasons. First, it is obviously dangerous to be riding around in a car that has no support under foot. Car design has progressed a bit since the days of the Flintstones. Second, and more important, the floor sections are primary structural components, giving strength to the pan of your car.

But a rusted floor doesn't have to mean the early retirement of your VW. There is a repair that will literally make your car's pan as good as new.

Floor pan repair is a serious matter because you are replacing a major structural member of the car. While it is

RIGHT, rusted out pans are a common VW problem. With the seat and carpeting removed, it's obvious just how bad the problem was on this Bug!

possible to temporarily cure the problem by welding or pop riveting a sheet metal patch over the rusted out area, we highly recommend you spend the extra time and money to do the job right. Otherwise, the problem will be back to haunt you, and in the long run it will end up costing a lot more to repair the car twice.

VW Restorations and Customs, 8223 Conner Drive, Manassas, VA 22111, (703) 361-3374 has been our authority and source for rust repair advice throughout this series. Paul Suplizio and crew quite possibly do more VW rust repair than any other shop in the country, and these guys know their stuff. The many years of experience are evident in the show quality restorations and customs this shop turns



Replacement floor panels are available only for '70 and earlier Beetles, but these can be made to work on later cars with minor modifications. Notice the seat rails welded to the replacement panel — you will need to remove these for later cars.