

## Your Cars Under Carriage

This article was suggested by Fred Petito and a good idea it is. Most of us don't ever look at the under carriage of our autos and if we did we probably wouldn't know what we were looking at anyway. By and large most the stuff underneath the car takes care of itself. We have all had rusted out mufflers or exhaust pipes but there is a lot more things that can be affected by corrosion. Brake lines, oil pans, transmission pans, brakes, wiring, floor pan and chassis to mention a few. We all know that we shouldn't buy a car that has been in a flood. But many are sold anyway because the damage from the salt water may not show itself for two or three years. CarFax is supposed to let a buyer be aware of this but if the owner doesn't report it then there is no way of CarFax knowing this so they cannot pass it on. This goes for any problem or accident with a car by the way. If it is not reported to the police or insurance company the information does not get recorded or passed on to CarFax or similar consumer alert companies. The same type of corrosion (although not as severe) can happen to your car if you have been driving on wet and salted roads during our winter storms. You can aim a garden hose underneath your car and try to rinse the under carriage but this requires bending over so that lets me out. Your best bet is to get it to a car wash that has a sprinkler system that sprays fresh water upwards as the car is



driven over it. Most good car wash places have this feature but ask to make sure. And this should be done a few times during the winter, not just at the end of the winter. The picture shows chassis rust on a 2005 Dodge Caravan.

Bob Mattsson 3/2015

