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My Z took water in the CAI...help!



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06-03-2006, 06:06 AM

#1

Mick

Registered User
Location: New York

Join Date: Dec 2003
Posts: 15
Mein auto: 2000 2.8 Roadster
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My Z took water in the CAI...help!

I'm driving a 2000 2.8 with a Dinan CAI and I got caught in a flash flood yesterday when the sky opened up and dumped a ton of water while I was in traffic at a low point...the next thing I knew...the car just stopped. I got it towed to the garage and I'm fearing the worst. Has anyone ever taken water in through their after market CAI? What are the best and worst case scenarios I can expect? Bent valves at the least? New [engine](#) at the worst?

I'm just hoping there's someone out there who had this happen and was able to give me some hope that I won't need a whole new engine...any input is greatly appreciated!



06-03-2006, 07:28 AM

#2

jameswb1

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: Toronto, Canada

Join Date: Nov 2005
Posts: 101
Mein auto: M coupe
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was your engine running during the flooding?

ImolaRot M Coupe in Toronto, Canada



06-03-2006, 10:03 AM

#3



weoilmen

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: Vacaville Ca 95687

Join Date: Dec 2003
Posts: 224
Mein auto: 01 S54 M Roadster & 97 M3
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I feel your Pain

I feel your Pain!

Did any water get inside the [car](#) like My Dearly beloved was Flooded. mine was totaled from the Dec 31 05 Flooding. ☹️ 🙄 😞

I've heard you can dry out the engine? Do a Search on bimmerfest and Google.

I knew mine was toast. I mean Drown, Dead Murdered. 🗡️ 🗡️ 🗡️

I hope you can recessitate yours.
I truly know your Pain.

Mike

Lost in the flood at the end of 05. RIP, ☹️



06-03-2006, 10:26 AM

#4

Hfelknor

The Oldest Rookie
Location: N Ft Myers, Florida

Join Date: May 2006
Posts: 11
Mein auto: 1998 2.8l Z3
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There is certainly a very good chance that no water got into the cylinders.
After all, the engine could have stopped simply because the air was cut off by the CAI intake being underwater.....Well at least it "could" have happened that way.

Homer



06-03-2006, 10:52 AM

#5

Mick

Registered User
Location: New York

Join Date: Dec 2003
Posts: 15
Mein auto: 2000 2.8 Roadster
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Yes, I was trying to slowly drive out of the water...

...and just before I exited the water, I gave it a touch of gas and the car died as it surged slightly forward...I'm assuming I let it gulp water when I accelerated...do you have any experience with this? I keep hearing that the engine will need replacement but I'm just searching for a possibility that that won't have to happen.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **jameswbl**
was your engine running during the flooding?



06-03-2006, 10:56 AM

#6

Mick

Registered User
Location: New York

Join Date: Dec 2003
Posts: 15
Mein auto: 2000 2.8 Roadster
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Thank you...I'm sorry about your beloved...

I can truly relate to your loss. Did you ever replace her?

I'm not sure what the verdict will be...I have to talk to the mechanic on Monday. Wish me luck!

Quote:

Originally Posted by **weoilmen**
I feel your Pain!
Did any water get inside the car like My Dearly beloved was Flooded.
mine was totaled from the Dec 31 05 Flooding. ☹️
I've heard you can dry out the engine? Do a Search on bimmerfest and Google.
I knew mine was toast. I mean Drown, Dead Murdered. 🗑️
I hope you can recessitate yours.
I truly know your Pain.

Mike



06-03-2006, 11:37 AM

#7

Cookie

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: San Mateo

Join Date: Jan 2006
Posts: 332
Mein auto: M Roadster
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Good luck Mick, I have heard of one other CAI water gulp and the result was not good. This helped to convince me that low intakes are not a good idea on a street driven car.



06-03-2006, 12:31 PM

#8



Z-Thrizzle

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest!
Location: Long Island, New York

Join Date: Oct 2005
Posts: 66
Mein auto: 2000, Z3 2.8
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Quote:

Originally Posted by **Mick**

I'm driving a 2000 2.8 with a Dinan CAI and I got caught in a flash flood yesterday when the sky opened up and dumped a ton of water while I was in traffic at a low point...the next thing I knew...the car just stopped. I got it towed to the garage and I'm fearing the worst. Has anyone ever taken water in through their after market CAI? What are the best and worst case scenarios I can expect? Bent valves at the least? New engine at the worst?

I'm just hoping there's someone out there who had this happen and was able to give me some hope that I won't need a whole new engine...any input is greatly appreciated!

I also had my 2.8 out yesterday and I couldn't believe how much rain fell in such a little time span. I saw so many cars stalled on the road going to LI from NYC. I couldn't believe my car went through some of those flooded roads. When I came home I noticed that some water fell into my headlights (not completely sealed in back because of retrofit)

I know it wouldn't have helped you yesterday but do you have that "sock" to cover the filter? I hope there was no serious damage.



M52TU, 2.8 Z3

Bilstein Sport Shocks | H&R Sport Springs | Cosmo Racing Strut Bar | OEM BMW HID Projector Retrofit w/ DDE Lighting | Subframe & Diffmount Reinforced by MrMCar | IE Subframe & RTR Bushings | TreehouseRacing CABs |



06-03-2006, 01:11 PM

#9

ludespeedny

Registered User
Location: Geneva NY

Join Date: Nov 2005
Posts: 54

Mein auto: 01 Z3 2.5
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Hey ,mick where in NY are you? I was probably in the same storm. I was very close to getting my cai cut off. I know I got some in, but it kept going and I got home shortly after. Iam definitely gonna look into getting one of these to help.



06-03-2006, 01:27 PM

#10

gotaZ3

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: New York

Join Date: Aug 2004
Posts: 197



Mein auto: 1998 BMW z3 2.8
[View My Garage](#)

Sorry to hear of your misfortune, when my maxima drowned i took out the sparkplugs and turned over the engine a few time. The water came squirting out about 5 feet over the hood from few of the cylinders, i continued that till there was no more water coming out. Then put in new sparkplugs and airfilter, started the car and let it run for about 30 mins, first few minutes i had white smoke coming out of the exhaust ala steam, then everything was back to normal. Im not sure whether that would be the best way to treat a BMW but it was good enough for a NISSAN.



06-03-2006, 02:05 PM

#11

jh

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: VA

Join Date: Jul 2003
Posts: 69
Mein auto: 88M5, 04330Ci
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does your filter have one of those supposedly water-resistant socks over it?
not sure that would be much good if it was under water... but maybe



06-03-2006, 05:49 PM

#12



Pinecone

M Mad
Location: Maryland

Join Date: Apr 2002
Posts: 7,790
Mein auto: M Roadster/M3
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If it really sucked water, it would have STOPPED, not just quit. If it STOPPED, like in locked up, things are probably bent. If it just quit, it may be fine after it dries out or may need new plugs and air filter like someone else said.

Terry Carraway

'95 Alpine M3 LTW
'00 Dakar M Roadster
'02 Topaz M3
Red/White SRF #4 (Chassis 561)



06-04-2006, 09:55 PM

#13

Mick

Join Date: Dec 2003

Yes, had the sock on...

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Z-Thrizzle**

I also had my 2.8 out yesterday and I couldn't believe how much rain fell in such a little time span. I saw so many cars stalled on the road going to LI from NYC. I couldn't believe my car went through some of those flooded roads. When I came home I noticed that some water fell into my headlights (not completely sealed in back because of retrofit)

I know it wouldn't have helped you yesterday but do you have that "sock" to cover the filter? I hope there was no serious damage.

I guess I'll find out tomorrow if it helped at all once the mechanic runs some tests...I'm praying I don't need a whole new engine...

I also saw a large amount of cars stalled on the road...there were 4 on the Queensboro bridge alone! Thanks for your input...I appreciate it.



06-04-2006, 09:59 PM

#14

Mick
Registered User
Location: New York

Join Date: Dec 2003
Posts: 15
Mein auto: 2000 2.8 Roadster
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I'm in Manhattan but...

Quote:

Originally Posted by **ludespeedny**

Hey ,mick where in NY are you? I was probably in the same storm. I was very close to getting my cai cut off. I know I got some in, but it kept going and I got home shortly after. Iam definitely gonna look into getting one of these to help.

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ebaymotors/2-75-...spagenameZWDVW>

...I was in Queens getting on the BQE when I hit the puddle/lake. I'm glad you didn't suffer the same fate...I'm dreading the phone call from the mechanic tomorrow...I hope he has some good news for me...I'd hate to have to put in a whole new engine...(he said, crying)



06-05-2006, 09:02 AM

#15



phrider
Equine 1/4 miler ancestor
Location: LaBrea Tar Pits, LA, CA

Join Date: May 2002
Posts: 976
Mein auto: 2001 M Roadster
[View My Garage](#)

Could this be covered by insurance?



06-05-2006, 10:38 AM

#16

ludespeedny
Registered User
Location: Geneva NY

Join Date: Nov 2005
Posts: 54

Mein auto: 01 Z3 2.5

Quote:

Originally Posted by **phrider**
Could this be covered by insurance?

yeah thats a good question, If you mod out your car, and add intakes and stuuf will it be covered under your policy?



06-05-2006, 10:55 AM

#17



fpa1974
Learning to drive...
Location: Roswell, GA

Join Date: Dec 2002
Posts: 557

Mein auto: 02 M Coupe, 98 M3/4
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Insurance should cover this if the engine is hydrolocked.

Florian

1998 M3/4
2002 M Coupe
Estorilblau
368S/74



06-05-2006, 12:30 PM

#18

Mick
Registered User
Location: New York

Join Date: Dec 2003
Posts: 15
Mein auto: 2000 2.8 Roadster
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Insurance coverage...not sure yet...

The mechanic says it would not be covered under insurance which I find alarming but I have not yet called my carrier until the shop calls me back with some answers after running diagnostics.

Since my 2000 2.8 is long out of warranty, insurance would be my only hope in the event of the worst (needing a new engine).

Ugh...years of pampering this wonderful car only to have it end up in a puddle on the highway!

I'll be sure to post results once I hear from the shop.

Mick



06-05-2006, 01:56 PM

#19

Mick
Registered User
Location: New York

Join Date: Dec 2003
Posts: 15
Mein auto: 2000 2.8 Roadster
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Here's the mechanic's report-does it sound honest?

...he says I've definitely bent two valves (2 and 4) BUT...he doesn't think I've destroyed the cylinders so apart from oil, plugs, gasket, etc...I'm probably looking at about \$2000 to clean it out, replace the valves and get her running again. He'll fix her up and re-run the tests to make sure all is well. He says the car should run as good as new...I hope he's right...do you think this sounds like an honest assessment?

Now, I never thought I'd say this but I'm happy to spend \$2000 and know that I don't need to replace the engine but, well, here I am saying it!

Moral: stay out of the drink.



06-05-2006, 02:15 PM

#20

JBgotM

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: Cincinnati, OH

Join Date: Sep 2004
Posts: 280
Mein auto: '99 M Roadster
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Quote:

Originally Posted by **Mick**

Moral: stay out of the drink.

and bring your air filter up to your headlight...



06-05-2006, 04:12 PM

#21

siwilson

Registered User
Location: Horley, UK

Join Date: Mar 2004
Posts: 23
Mein auto: M Roadster S54 - E39 3.0
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Quote:

Originally Posted by **Mick**

...he says I've definitely bent two valves (2 and 4) BUT...he doesn't think I've destroyed the cylinders so apart from oil, plugs, gasket, etc...I'm probably looking at about \$2000 to clean it out, replace the valves and get her running again. He'll fix her up and re-run the tests to make sure all is well. He says the car should run as good as new...I hope he's right...do you think this sounds like an honest assessment?

Now, I never thought I'd say this but I'm happy to spend \$2000 and know that I don't need to replace the engine but, well, here I am saying it!

Moral: stay out of the drink.

Forgive me for being cynical, but why would sucking water into the engine bend a valve ?

I can understand and have heard of water in the engine causing a bent connecting rod, but a valve ?

Did the mechanic say that a piston hit one of the valves ?



06-05-2006, 05:13 PM

#22

jameswbl

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: Toronto, Canada

Join Date: Nov 2005
Posts: 101
Mein auto: M coupe
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a friend of mine had the same thing...in a civic though...flash flood in Toronto last year

drove through a small puddle...car stalled...he coasted out of the puddle on to dry ground...he restarted and drove through another big puddle...then the engine went dead...the CAI piping was full of water... when we popped the hood...no visible damage

at the shop...no valve damage at all...just cracked upper engine housing...was replaced along with spark

plugs and wires...after some major cleaning and new gaskets...the engine was running again...

I dont think sucking in water will bend valves (which is caused by piston hitting valves)...coz the reason for water failure is the incompressibility of water...thus making the engine seize...i would take the head off and look for cracks in housing/pisonts instead of valve damage...

next time get a Conforti...=)...all the cold air you will ever need

ImolaRot M Coupe in Toronto, Canada

Last edited by jameswbl : 06-05-2006 at 05:16 PM.



06-05-2006, 05:24 PM

#23

whiskey.org

Artie's my hero
Location: east bay, CA

Join Date: Sep 2005
Posts: 724
Mein auto: Z4, E90 325
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I'm sure water could bend a valve, it's pretty dense stuff compared to what a valve is meant to be surrounded by



06-05-2006, 07:01 PM

#24



QikSilver

Too much is never enough
Location: Ft Lauderdale, FL

Join Date: May 2003
Posts: 249
Mein auto: 01 M roadster
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I'd be very suspicious of bent valves from water getting in the cylinders. Water could do a lot of damage in there but bending a valve? How?

My 92 Nissan Twin Turbo took a huge gulp of water in a flooding rain storm. It stopped instantly and wouldn't crank, I was sure it was gone. I came back to the car a few hours later with tools and removed the plugs, cranking a lot of water out. Sprayed some CRC in each cylinder; next day I had it towed to my shop and disconnected the turbo/intercooler tubes and blew a ton of water out with compressed air. The oil was pea green so I changed it; put everything back and fired it up. It started, barely, running rough and coughing out more water, but it eventually cleared up and when I drove it, it seemed fine, the turbos spinning and adding nice boost. The oil was green again, so I changed it a second time. I had the car for a few years after that and had no ill effects from the water intake, except maybe two things: the clutch started slipping a few months later, which I replaced with a Centerforce unit; and the starter motor worked and sounded weird after the water episode; sure enough, some of the windings must have shorted in the water because the new starter worked great. I was very lucky nothing got bent, but I worked very quickly to get all the water out before it did serious damage.

John

01 M roadster, F: GC/Koni short coilover struts, Eibach, Wilwood front brakes, GC tubular swaybar. R: TC Kline springs, short Bilsteins, shortened rear swaybar, IE sub & swingarm bushings & shock mounts, 3.23 gear, Rogue dual-ear cover, Eisenmann 4x83 pipes. MISC: Sport mode, Rogue pulleys, keyless, RG Motorsport intake, OZ Superleggera 18" 3 piece.

04 Infiniti G35 Coupe

03 Dodge Durango 4.7 SOHC, 3.92 LSD, Magnaflow, Bilsteins

05 Scion xB

89 Reynard F2000 🤖



06-05-2006, 08:15 PM

#25

whiskey.org

Artie's my hero
Location: east bay, CA

Join Date: Sep 2005
Posts: 724
Mein auto: Z4, E90 325
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does nobody think the force of the piston slamming water past a valve could cause issues



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Z-Series

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