

CHANGING A VITRA PLUTO WC SEAT

So you have a vitra Pluto seat that is presumably broken in some way and needs to be changed. The vitra Pluto pan, once installed gives no access to the seat fixing bolts from the underneath. The only method, without removing the pan is from the top.

Commonly known as top fixing hinges, they utilise some form of blind hole fixing method. Problem is Vitra have, over the years changed the type of fixing they use. Below are the 3 types I have come across. There may well be more.



The top left picture shows the original Pluto fixing. This fixing is bolted in place at the time of manufacture. The top right picture shows the view from above.

These fixings are by far the best but when changing my seat the left hand one collapsed during the screw removal because the screw was so badly corroded into the fitting. The pan had to be removed to remove this fitting.

Remember nuts and bolts of any type come under severe attack from various types of moisture found in the vicinity of a toilet seat. These range from cleaning liquids to the obvious one of urine.



The fixings pictured above all work by forcing out 4 metal wings which are meant to securely grip the sides of the pan holes. As you tighten the screw from above a nut is drawn upwards forcing out the metal wings. In my view metal on porcelain is a bad mix and they were not terribly successful. Again removal can be a problem due to corrosion. Removal if corroded in can prove problematical. Try lifting the fixing upwards whilst unscrewing. If this fails drilling or grinding off the screw head will enable you to knock the fitting downward and into the pan void.



The idea behind this type of fixing is that the bolt containing the central toggle is placed into the hole deep enough to allow the toggle to flip out and during tightening grips the underside of the hole. Sometimes, when not careful during fitting the toggle has not flipped out underneath the hole but is still in the confines of the hole. It will appear that the fitting is working but they will have fouled the threads of the bolt making removal difficult. If fitted correctly one of the failings are there is nothing to position the bolt in the pan hole so it can easily move around loosening the fixing.

To remove this type of fixing you have to apply upward pressure holding the toggle in position on the underside of the pan hole while you unscrew.

Again corrosion can be a problem. Drilling or grinding of the screw head will work.

Finally to conclude, it will be very hard to identify the type of fixing you have as all you can see is a bolt or screw head. I have no advice to offer to aid identification sorry. Our seat comes with blind hole fixings as pictured below.

These are by far the best fixings I have found to date and I have located the manufacturer and they are now in stock



They are fitted by hammering into place. Lubricating the plug with washing up liquid or similar will help ease the plug into place. You have to be careful because a false slip and you will have a broken pan so a plastic headed hammer would be safer. If you don't have one of these then a block of wood will suffice. The final pictures show the fixing installed on a Pluto pan.

For further information on fitting these plugs go to the following link.

<http://www.gushbathrooms.com/uploads/products/Fitting%20BHF%20inserts%20latest.pdf>

Hope this helps and if really stuck you can always call me.
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