



XJ Rear Bumper Install Guide
by Haleyes

Bumper Installation

1. If you have a 97-newer XJ, you will need to cut the bumper end caps straight down along the body with a razor knife to remove the rear bumper. This will leave the plastic cover on the bottom of the quarter panel, but allow you to remove the bumper. (See Figure 1)
2. Body mods are not necessary on 96 and older XJ's.
3. There is a plastic trim piece that is attached to the top side of the bumper. This trim piece does nothing but fill the space between the bulkhead and the bumper. I simply tore it off to gain easy access to the bolts that attach the bumper to the brackets. There are a total of 4 bolts that attach the bumper to the bumper brackets, 2 on each side. A Gear Wrench is extremely handy to access the top bolts. (See Figure 2)
4. Once you have the bumper unbolted from the bracket, you can remove the bumper.
5. Now you will see 4 bolts on each side holding the brackets on, remove these bolts. Be sure to save these bolts, as they are needed for install. (See Figure 3)



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

6. On bumpers with a receiver, remove the factory hitch from the vehicle (if equipped). If your Jeep did not come with a factory hitch you won't have the nut strips inside the frame rail, now is the time to bolt the uni-frame tie-in brackets on. (offset plate facing up) If you don't have the nut strips, use the supplied bolts, nuts and lock washers. Just snug the front most two bolts. This will allow enough adjustment to line up the bumper tabs, but will allow the lock washers to hold the nuts inside the frame for final torque. This is important because once the bumper is on you won't have access to the nuts inside the frame rail.
7. If your bumper does not have a receiver (and you are keeping or installing a factory receiver.) Remove the rear two receiver bolts, place the uni-frame tie-in upside down (offset plate facing down) and re-install the two rear receiver bolts, don't tighten completely just yet.
8. Reuse the 8 bumper bolts that were retained earlier to bolt the bumper to the rear bulkhead. It is extremely helpful if you have someone to help with this. Just place the bumper up to the 8 holes in the bulkhead and get them snug, not tight.
 - a. If you would like to use new, larger hardware, now would be the time to do it. Use a drill, or a punch to remove the factory weld nuts from the crossmember. Then install your new larger hardware in it's place. It's tight, but there is enough room to get a box end wrench behind the cross member to hold the nuts. Be sure and use some large fender washers behind the nuts as well.
9. Now bolt the tabs on the bottom of the bumper to the uni-frame tie-ins with the supplied hardware. (Figure 4)
10. Once all the bolts are started, tighten the bumper down snugly. Check for tailgate closing clearance, if need be, loosen bumper and move it down to clear tail gate closing.
11. Do a final check on clearances and alignment, then tighten all bulkhead, uni-frame tie-in, and receiver bolts.



Figure 4

Tire Carrier Installation (If equipped)

1. Once everything is tight, you can install the swing arm assembly. It is as simple as just setting the swing arm over the spindle. Once this is done, there is a washer that goes on and then the castle nut screws onto the spindle. Place the cap on the swing arm and then grease it. (Figure 5)
2. Now it's time to install the latch. There are four pre drilled holes where the latch is to be mounted. Put the latch in place and use the 4 self tapers that are provided. Some adjustment of the latch will be necessary. Unfortunately, these latches do not really snap into place. Use the d-ring pin provided to keep the latch from opening. If the latch is adjusted properly, there is no problem with it coming loose. (Figure 6)



Figure 5



Figure 6

Your bumper installation is now complete.
Happy wheeling.

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Finished install:

