

2012-2015 Toyota Tacoma Winch Mount Bumper Installation Instructions

Tools Required:

- ▲ Small flat head screw driver
- A Ratchet, 10mm, 14mm & 19mm sockets
- ▲ Torque Wrench
- ♣ 4" Grinder with cut off disc
- Wax & Grease Remover
- Paint or Coating

Items Included:

- ♣ 2 x Ear Plates

Read this document completely before starting this project as there are links and information towards the end that will benefit you. See the official Toyota bumper exploded view at the end of this document but keep in mind there is no need to remove the headlight assemblies, fog lights (just disconnect fog lights) or the fender flare extensions on the bumper cover.

Thank you for purchasing the U.S. Off Road winch mount bumper for the 2012-2015 Toyota Tacoma. This bumper provides a method to mount most winches within the factory bumper cover and also provides recovery points and light mount tabs for typical 3"x3" square off road lights.



It is always good to tape off your fenders and bumper cover where you are working with painters tape to prevent scratches.

Always use safety glasses while cutting or grinding!

Step 1:

Open the hood and prop it up. Find the two flat plastic retainers on top of and at each end of the grill. Insert a small flat head screw driver in to the recess under the retainer head and gently pry up then pull the retainer out of the hole. Keep these you will need them to reinstall the grill. If you break one you may need to call your local Toyota dealer to buy more.



Step 2:

Use a ratchet and 10mm socket to remove 2 bolts from top of grill. In order to remove grille shell you must unclip the six plastic tabs along the bottom of the grille shell. Pull forward on the grille shell while unclipping the non removable tabs from the back side one at a time with a flat blade screw driver.

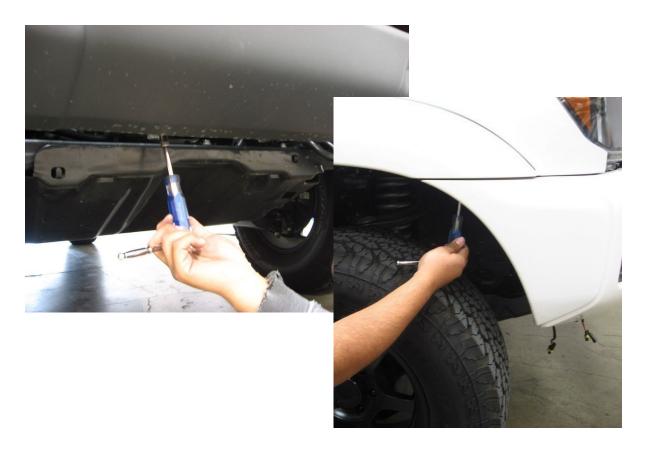


Step 3: Remove the plastic clips along the top side of the bumper cover.

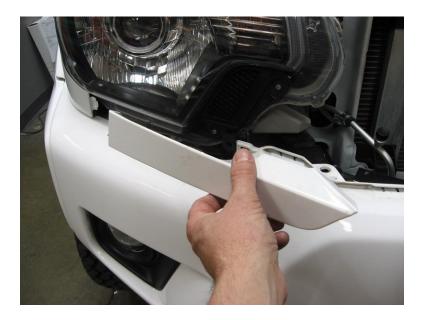


Step 4:

Using your ratchet and 10mm socket, remove the bolts along the front of the fenderwells 2 on each side, and 2 below on each 'corner' and another 6 along the bottom of the bumper cover. Save them as you will need most of them later.



Remove the plastic filler trim under the headlights. The filler panel has a plastic clip on the backside once unclipped the filler will slide out.



The bumper cover is ready to remove but is still attached via two plastic mounts on the sides near the fenderwells, underneath the cover. The cover's upper edge needs to come up and over some clips, take a close look in the gap between the fender and the cover to see the clip. Patience and finesse are key here. Sometimes it helps to pull the cover rearward and up.



Don't forget to unplug your fog lights if equipped before removing the bumper cover.

Step 5:

Remove the stock square tube bumper using a ratchet and 14mm sockets. You will probably want to use a 1/2" drive or an air impact wrench as these nuts are very tight. There will be 3 on each side for a total of 6. Save the nuts as you will need them to install the winch mount. You can discard the stock bumper tube. If it is too tight to come off of the frame studs you can loosen the bolts that attach the tube to the standoffs to release pressure.



Next you need to remove the two 19mm bolts that hold the subframe ends in place. Leave the subframe ends (they simply slide out but you need them where they are. These two bolts will be used to secure the bottom of the winch mount. Set the bolts aside until you install the winch mount.



Step 6:

You will need to cut off the factory recovery loop on the driver's side of the subframe. This steel is relatively soft and can be cut off easily with any 4" grinder and a cutoff disc. We suggest cutting it off flush with the subframe. Always wear safety glasses and gloves when doing this. You will create sparks so now flammable materials should be in the area while cutting.



Step 7:

Before painting the winch mount we suggest test fitting on the vehicle and mock up your winch and solenoid. There are many different types of winches and designs. Some will fit without remote mounting the solenoid, some will not. The vertical winch height limit is approximately 9.5" in the center. We suggest reading our winch fitment guide: http://www.usoffroad.us/winch-fitment/ on our website for some helpful hints.

You can remove the center brace shown below to create some more room during the installation. Remove the 4 bolts, one on each end and two in the center.



Although we have test fitted extensively there can be variations on the vehicle or winch mount, or both. This is simply a manufacturing reality. Typically you will not need to alter the bolt holes. A tight fit is required to maintain proper alignment when using the winch so if any material removal is necessary remove **only** what is absolutely necessary. A carbide burr can be chucked up in a drill or air grinder (use your safety glasses!) but be careful not to remove more than necessary as a burr is very sharp and can remove steel quickly. Please let us know if you experience any fitment issues.

Step 8:

Once the winch mount has been verified to fit your Tacoma properly you will need to prepare it for painting or coating. While the mount is bare steel and has been ground smooth you might to take a little sandpaper or a wire brush on a 4" grinder to remove any small imperfections in the visible areas before priming.

You **must** give it a thorough cleaning prior to painting or coating. Please read this article on how to properly prepare your bumper: https://www.usoffroad.us/bumper-prep-and-paint/



Do NOT rush this part, give it plenty of time to cure in the sun before installing or you will make a mess of the finish during installation.

Step 9:

Prior to installing the winch mount you may want to install the winch per the manufacturer's instructions. Your mount and winch assembly will weigh around 125lbs so you will need an extra set of hands and/or a floor jack to safely install or you can remove the center brace above the bumper as discussed in Step 6. Make sure your electrical connections between the winch solenoid box and winch are all made prior to installing the mount and winch. You can make your connections to the battery afterward. Be careful not to pinch any wires. This process may vary depending on winch type.

You may also remove the lateral center brace as described in Step 7 and install the winch after the bumper installation. Depending on your winch this is typically the preferred method.

Step 10:

Slide the winch mount over the 6 frame studs and install the 2 slider plates on the 4 outermost studs and then the 6 14mm nuts. Reinstall the two 19mm bolts you removed in Step 5 through the tabs in the winch mount and in to the subframe.



Once the bolts are installed and snug you can tighten the 6 14mm bolts and torque to 40lbs. Tighten the 2 lower bolts and torque to 60lbs.

Ear Plates

These plates act like a giant washer so the nuts have plenty of surface area to clamp down on and enable us to create larger holes in the bumper for adjustability.

Step 11:

Finish making all of your electrical connections before moving to the next step. These will vary depending on winch type and preferred installation method. Test the functionality of the winch before reinstalling your covers!

Step 12:

Here's the part that makes a difference between an average installation or a really clean installation. Read this section before cutting.

First, remove the valance from the lower bumper cover. Look for the 5 blue locking tabs along with a series of tabs top and bottom that hold this in place.



Once exposed by removing the valance you need to cut out the center section so it will fit the winch mount properly. A 4" grinder with a cutoff disc is probably the best method. Take your time and be careful. **Don't cut just yet...keep reading!**



Leave approximately 1" of material so you can trim to fit precisely. These pieces will fit in the U shaped channels in the bumper ends and helps keep the plastic cover in place. You can use a sharp knife to trim precisely.



Reinstallation:

Reinstall the bumper cover. Having an extra set of hands is helpful. Lay the cover on the vehicle, positioning it accordingly then start snapping it back to place and installing the popup retainers and bolts. You no longer need the center bottom bolts and popup fasteners as you have removed the section it bolted to. Make sure it snaps in to the side mounts in front of the wheel wells then install the fenderwell bolts accordingly.

Reuse the bolts and nutserts replace the screws below. From the factory these screwed in to a bracket mounted to the bumper tube (pull the nutserts from there), use this hardware to bolt these plastic pieces (cover and fender well drain) to each other.



Reinstall your grille. Make sure your plastic retainers behind the grille are aligned properly before pressing in to place. Then reinstall the 2 10mm bolts and popup retainers.

You may need to work the bumper cover a bit to get it aligned accordingly before tightening everything. Patience and attention to detail pays off here.

NOTES:

- ▲ The winch mount is drilled for 3/4" pin shackles. The holes are .880". Shackles for 3/4" holes are typically around .870". If you have too much paint in the holes your shackles may not fit and some paint may need to be removed. Shackle pin sizes vary slightly by manufacturer.
- A We suggest checking the torque on all fittings after 100 miles of driving. This will require removing the bumper cover again.
- ▲ Winch mount weight is 63lbs and is made of mild steel. The winch tub is .250" and the front fascia is .125" for a total of .375" where the shackle mounts and fairlead mount is located. Because of this thickness you may need longer fairlead bolts.
- A You must use Wax & Grease remover to thoroughly clean the mount or your paint will not stick for long. You can find it at most auto parts stores in their auto paint section.
- Light tabs have 5/16" holes and are situated for 2" LED lights (3" housing) but can be used for any lights you can fit in the gap between the bumper and cover.

You can always reach us through the contact page at www.usoffroad.us. Be sure to email us your install photos to usoffroad@gmail.com.

Helpful links and information:

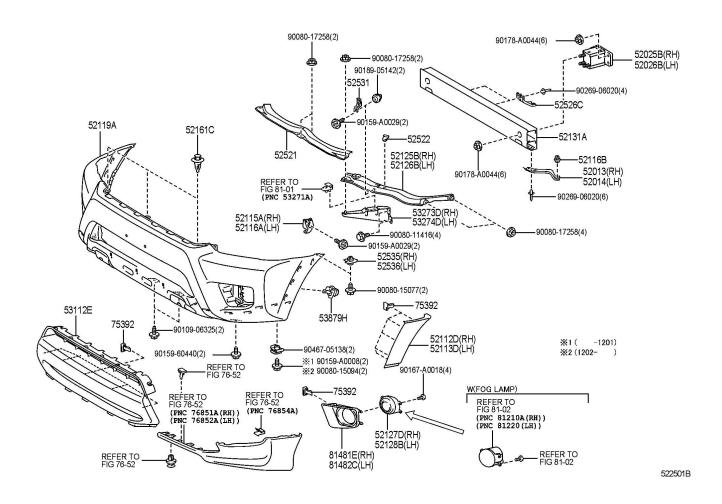
Bumper Prep: https://www.usoffroad.us/bumper-prep-and-paint/

Winch Fitment: https://www.usoffroad.us/winch-fitment/

We have also made the factory exploded view of parts and part numbers part of this document.

Installation Instructions Version 1.2 Updated 3-31-16

2012-2015 Front Bumper Assembly & Cover Diagram & Part Numbers



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