



RUST BUSTER

RB7706

**Spare Tire Crossmember
1997-2004 Dodge Dakota
Club Cab – 6.5 ft. Bed**



REQUIRED TOOLS

Jack Stands or Lift
Paint/Primer
Hand Grinder
Cutting Wheel or Torch
Ear & Eye Protection
Sockets & Ratchet
Fire Extinguisher
Hammer
Punch
Wrench
C-Clamp

KIT CONTAINS

Spare Tire Crossmember
M10 Flanged Hex Head Bolt
M10 Flange Locknut

QTY

1
8
8



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1) PREPARING YOUR VEHICLE

Begin by disconnecting your battery prior to starting your installation.

Inspect your vehicle for leaking fuel lines, fuel tank and engine components. If you have fuel leaks repair all leaks prior to starting your installation. If your fuel tank is near your welding area **remove your tank prior to welding.**

Remove all combustible items above the work area such as seats, carpets, padding, etc.

Keep all flammable materials away from the vehicle work area.

2) PREPARING YOUR WORKSTATION

Keep a fire extinguisher close by in the case of fire and make sure you always have a designated “Fire Watch” to assist during the cutting or welding phases.

Abide by all apprenticed welding safety standards and practices.

Always use appropriate welding eye protection, ear protection, and work and fire safety gloves during the installation and within the work area.



WARNING!

If you are unsure on how to perform the installation or how to operate any of the required tools listed above, it is **HIGHLY** advised that you enlist the work of a certified welder/installer.

Failure to follow proper safety precautions and instructions may result in serious injury. **The user assumes all liability when installing the product.**



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3) PREPARING FOR YOUR INSTALL

Remove or lift your bed out of the way. Remove or protect any fuel lines, brake lines, and wiring harnesses. Remove the spare tire hoist and unbolt your shock.

4) CUT

Cut out the rivets retaining the factory spare tire crossmember. You can cut your crossmember in half to make it easier to remove.



Then, punch out the rivets using a punch.



Grind the frame free of rust and debris, revealing bare metal.



Spray the work area with a weld through primer to help prevent against rust development.





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5) **INSTALL**

To install the replacement spare tire crossmember, we recommend removing the rear bumper for easier installation. You may also need to flare up the top of the frame rail to allow your crossmember to slide into place.

NOTE: Ensure the shock mount is positioned towards the front of the vehicle.

Then, slide your crossmember into place from the rear of the vehicle. You can tap it into place using a hammer.



Once you have your crossmember in place, take the included hardware and screw them into place. You may need to use a punch or c-clamp to help with the alignment.



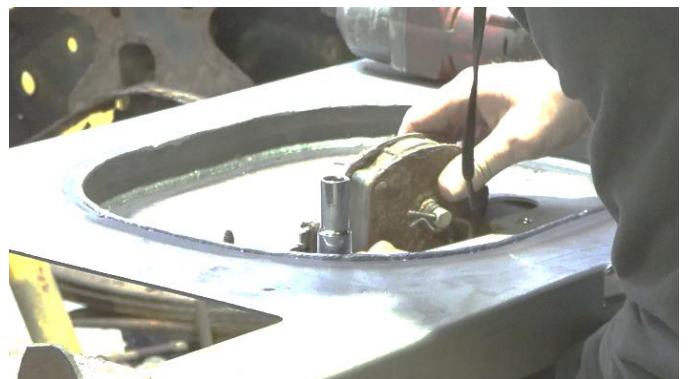
Then, tighten your hardware with a 14mm socket and a 15mm wrench.



6) **REINSTALL THE SPARE TIRE HOIST**

After installing your crossmember, we need to reinstall the spare tire hoist. You can either reuse the factory one or replace it with a new one.

To do this, slide your spare tire hoist up from the bottom of your crossmember and latch the hook onto the edge that sticks up on the top of your crossmember.





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With your spare tire hoist in place, reinstall or replace the spare tire hoists hardware and tighten it with a 13mm socket.



Paint the part with primer or other rust inhibitor to help prevent or reduce the risk of rust formation.

We recommend our Rust Buster Rust Converter & Primer Spray Paint (RB9917).



7) PAINT

If you bent the top of your frame rail upwards in step 5, bend it back down with a crescent wrench.



8) REINSTALL

Reinstall your shock.