



# Replace - A - Top Installation Instructions



For: CJ7 '76 - '86

Part Number: 51118

Congratulations on your purchasing decision. Bestop designed the Replace - A - Top to give you years of dependability and performance with proper care. If you encounter any problems during the installation of your Replace - A - Top, or at any later date, please contact your authorized Bestop dealer or call our Consumer Response Department, Monday - Friday at (800) 346-3910 or (303) 465-1755 in Colorado.

**Note: Please read this manual thoroughly before beginning the installation. After completing installation, keep this manual for further reference.**

### **Warning:**

**This product is designed to enhance the appearance of the vehicle and to shield the occupants from ordinary weather conditions. Do not rely in any way on the components of this product to contain occupants within the vehicle, or to protect against injury or death in the event of an accident. This product will not protect the occupants from falling objects. Never operate vehicle in excess of manufacturer's specifications.**

**Wear seat belts at all times.**

**Read and follow, precisely, all installation instructions provided when installing this product. Failure to do so may result in a poor fit and could place occupants of the vehicle in a potentially dangerous situation.**

### LIMITED WARRANTY

We warrant our product to be free from defects in material and workmanship, for the terms specified below, provided there has been normal use and proper maintenance. This warranty applies to the original purchaser only. All remedies under this warranty are limited to the repair or replacement of any item or items found by the factory to be defective within the time period specified.

If you have a warranty claim, first you must call our factory at the number below for instructions. You must retain proof of purchase and submit a copy with any items returned for warranty work. Upon completion of warranty work, if any, we will return the repaired or replaced item or items to you freight prepaid. Damage to our products caused by accidents, fire, vandalism, negligence, misinstallation, misuse, Acts of God, or by defective parts not manufactured by us, is not covered under this warranty.

THE WARRANTY TIME PERIOD IS AS FOLLOWS: ALL "SOFT GOODS" MANUFACTURED BY OUR COMPANY (USING PRIMARILY VINYL, PLASTICS, AND/OR FOAM): ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF PURCHASE.

ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE CREATED HEREBY ARE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE SAME DURATION AND SCOPE AS THE EXPRESS WRITTEN WARRANTY. OUR COMPANY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGE.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

For further information or request for warranty work, please contact:

Bestop Inc.  
Customer Service  
(800)346-3910  
(303)465-1755

## **Before You Install**

You may notice some wrinkling in the fabric of your Replace - A - Top when you first remove it from its shipping container. Also, there may be indentations in the windows. **Don't panic.** It is normal for the tops to do this when stored in the shipping container. The wrinkles and indentations will disappear after 48-72 hours of exposure to sunlight.

*Note: You should install your Replace - A - Top in temperatures of 70°F (21° C) or warmer. The fabric will contract in cooler temperatures, making proper installation difficult.*

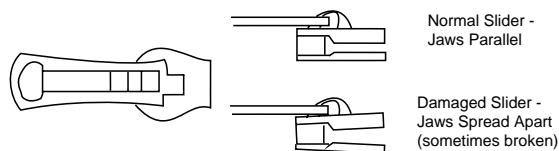
You are now ready to begin the installation process.

## **Care and Maintenance of your Bestop Top**

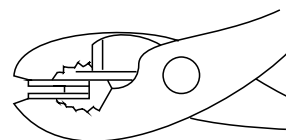
Your top is made of the finest materials available. To keep it looking new and for the maximum possible wear, it will need periodic cleaning and maintenance.

**Washing:** The top fabric should be washed often using soap, warm water and a soft bristle brush. Rinse with clear water to remove all traces of soap.

**Windows:** Keep windows clean to avoid scratching. DO NOT use a brush on the windows! Wash with a watersoaked cloth or sponge and a mild dishwashing detergent. NEVER WIPE THE WINDOWS WHEN THEY ARE DRY. Be careful when cleaning snow or frost from the vinyl windows since they are easily scratched and may crack at low temperatures. DO NOT roll the sides or rear curtain in cold weather. The windows become stiff and will crack.



**Zippers:** Keeping the zipper cleaned and lubricated with a silicone lubricant will help prevent damage and keep the zippers in a smooth working condition. If a zipper opens behind the slider, the slider may have been spread apart. This problem can usually be repaired by using an ordinary pair of pliers to bring the sides back into parallel. Return slider to the end of the zipper in the normal Open position. Squeeze lightly at first and test the zipper. If the zipper continues to remain open squeeze more firmly with the pliers and try the zipper again. Repeat this procedure until the zipper operates correctly.



**Water:** Seeping through at the seams may be stopped by applying 3-M Scotchgard® on the inside of the seams. Rips in the fabric may be repaired with Bondex® iron on patches. Iron the patches to the Inside of the top, carefully following the Bondex® instructions.

**Snap:** Keep snaps cleaned and lubricated with silicone to help prevent snaps from sticking to the studs. If a snap does become stuck to a stud, use a screwdriver and GENTLY pry apart to prevent permanent damage to the snap or the top fabric.

## **Installation: Getting Started**

Your Replace - A - Top will require two people for proper installation.

This section will familiarize you with the parts included with your Replace - A - Top and will get you through the “pre-installation” steps.

*Note: You should install your Replace - A - Top in temperatures of 70°F (21° C) or warmer. The fabric will contract in cooler temperatures, making proper installation difficult.*

### **What You'll Need**

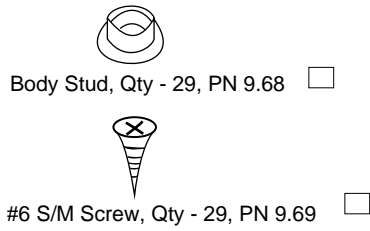
- Scissors
- A razor knife

That's it. With these tools, you're ready to go.

### **Unpacking: What You Have**

Remove parts carefully from the shipping container in order to avoid scratching windows. **Check each part included against the following Parts List.**

## Parts List and Hardware Identification



Check off each item

- Fabric Top, Qty - 1
- Door - Right, Qty - 1
- Door - Left, Qty - 1
- 5/8" x 2" Adhesive Hook Strip, Qty - 4
- Bow Covers - Short, Qty - 2
- Bow Covers - Long, Qty - 2

Because of generic packaging, extra parts may be included.

### Installing the Top

This kit contains a vinyl top and vinyl covers to fit the original equipment bows and door frames. You must have all of the original hardware for proper installation of the product. Should you be missing anything, consult your local vehicle dealer for replacement parts.

#### Step One

Remove the old top, including the horizontal and vertical rods and the bows.

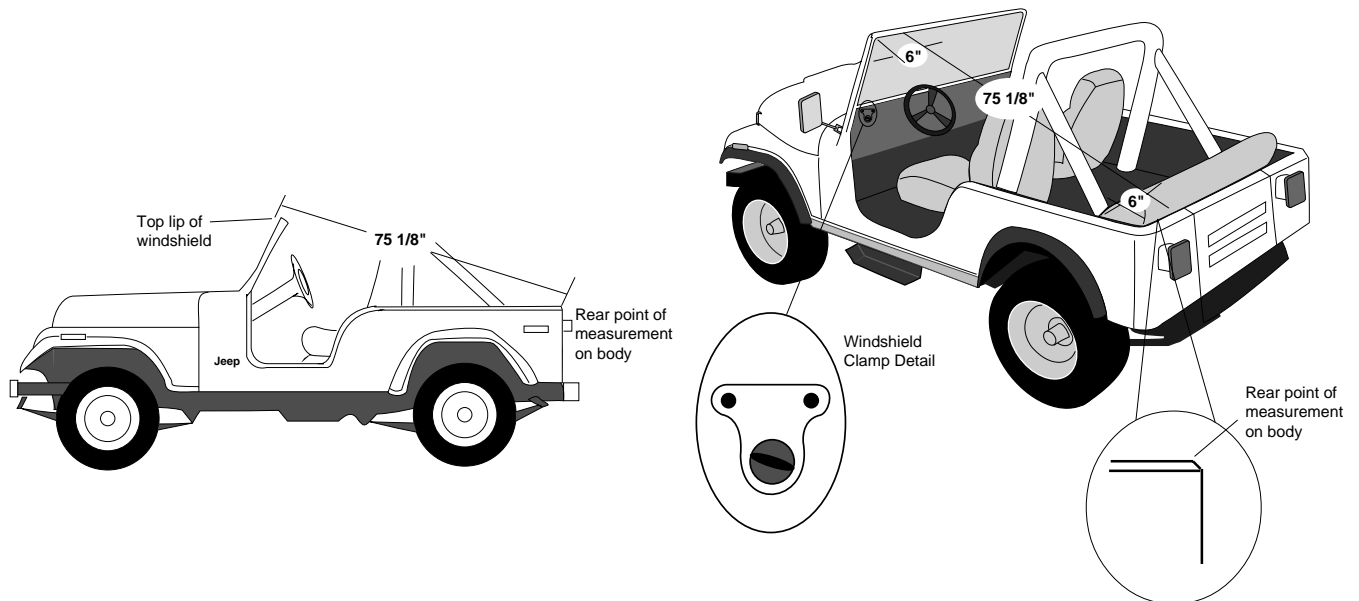
#### Windshield Adjustment

This is the first step you must take in the installation process and it is also the most important one. Improper windshield adjustment results in poor fitting of both the top and the doors, as well as misalignment of snaps.

#### Step One

Measure and record the distance from the top lip of the windshield to the top outer edge of the vehicle body, but not the tailgate (see Figure 1). Take the measurement from approximately six inches inside the vehicle's doors. Check to make sure that both sides measure equally. To install this top properly, this measurement must be 75 1/8".

**Figure 1**



#### Step Two

If necessary, adjust your windshield by loosening the two screws in the Windshield Clamps located at the base of the windshield on each side of the vehicle. You may then lean the windshield forward or back as necessary. Use a shim to fix the windshield in place if it remains loose after you tighten the screws.

## Top Installation

### Step One

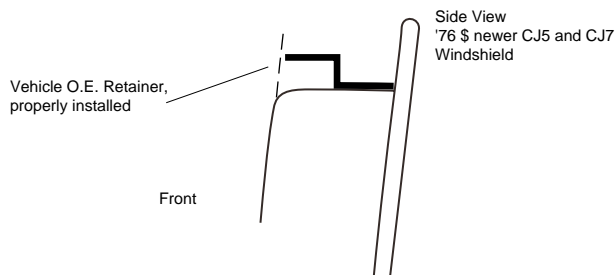
Take the old bow covers off of the bows and slide on new ones. The long covers are for the rear bows and the short covers are for the front bows. Reinstall the bows on the vehicle.

### Step Two

Check the windshield retainer placement. Relocate the retainer if necessary.

**Note:** The original equipment windshield retainer on 1976 and newer CJ5 and CJ7 vehicles should be installed so that the front edge of the retainer is flush with the front edge of the windshield frame (see Figure 2). If the retainer sticks out in front of the windshield frame, it will not leave a space large enough to hold the top securely at high speed.

Figure 2



### Step Three

Install the new top over the bows, just as the old one came off. Make sure that it is hooked securely under the retainer on top of the windshield frame. Snap the two short straps to the snaps in the rear bow and buckle the straps to the footman loops on the rear corners of the vehicle.

### Step Four

Insert the horizontal and vertical rods through the sleeves above the door openings. Snap the flap around the front bow to hold the rods in place.

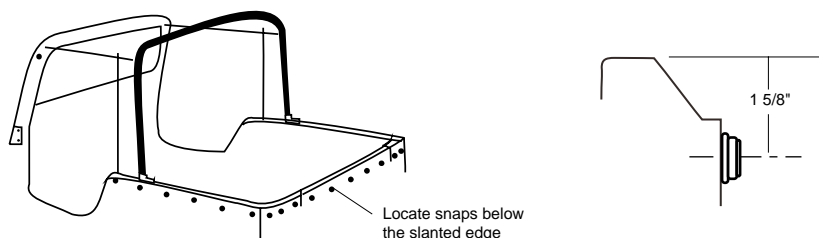
### Step Five

Snap the top down to the vehicle body and the installation is finished.

**Note:** The snap placement on the top is the same as the original top. However, due to the installation variances, fabric stretch and manufacturing tolerances, it is possible that some of the snaps will not line up exactly. Therefore, we have included a few extra snaps and screws for the body in case you should find it necessary to move one or more snaps. These may also be used if you have broken snaps from your original top.

**Note:** On 1976 - 1977 models the snap placement on the vehicle body was along the slanted edge of the body. In 1978 the tops were made longer so that the snaps are placed approximately 1 5/8 inches below the top edge of the body. This top is designed to replace the longer (1978 and later) top. If you have one of the short (1976 - 1977) tops on your vehicle, it will be necessary to install new snaps in the body as shown in Figure 3 below. To do this, start at the rear corners of the vehicle and stretch the top tight to insure a wrinkle free fit.

Figure 3



## **Installing the Doors**

**Warning:** The doors in this product are designed only for protection against the elements. Do not rely on the doors to contain occupants within the vehicle or to protect against injury during an accident. Door handles are only designed to aid in door closure. Door and handle **will not** support a person's weight.

### *Step One*

To install the new fabric covers on the original door frames, first you must remove the old doors from your vehicle and take the door handles off.

*Note:* Be careful in dismantling the handles, there is a spring inside each of the handles and they must be put back together just as they came apart.

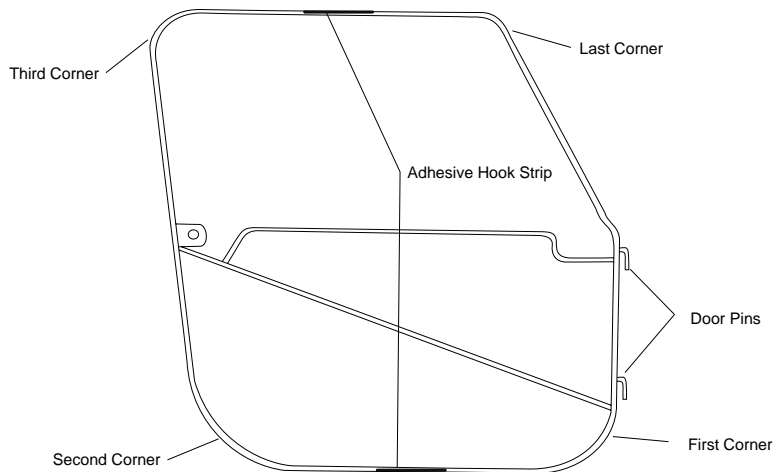
### *Step Two*

With a razor knife, cut the stitching on the old door covers and remove them from the frames.

### *Step Three*

Start with the front of the door cover and locate the cut outs in the fabric for the door pins. Insert the door pins through the cut outs in the fabric and place the "First" corner into the pocket sewn into the fabric. Work around the door, slipping each corner into each corner of the elastic band. It may be necessary to unzip the upper window before sliding the elastic over the last corner.

**Figure 4**



### *Step Four*

After the fabric door covers are on the frames, install the adhesive hook on the door frame to match up with the loop strip sewn into the fabric cover. Use a pair of scissors to cut a hole in each door for the handle and reinstall the handle. Make sure that you replace it the way it came off.

## Folding the Top Down

### Step One

Unsnap the rear and side curtains and unzip the rear curtain zippers. Roll the rear curtain to the inside and secure it to the top with the rear curtain straps. Unsnap the top from the body and remove both the Vertical and Horizontal Rods.

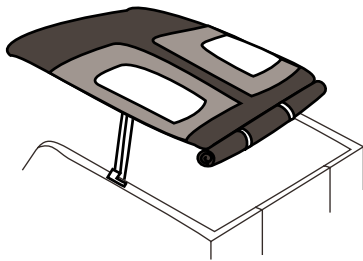
### Step Two

Fold the side curtain and lay it on top of the Top, folding along the seam. Then fold the rear curtain up over the side curtains (see Figure 5). Push the Front Bow toward the Rear Bow.

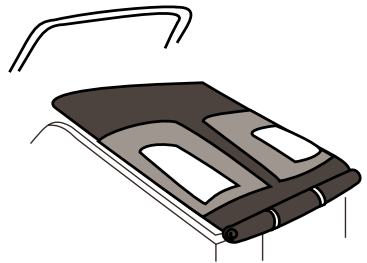
### Step Three

Unfasten the Top from the windshield and lower the Top onto the vehicle as you push both Bows down and to the rear (see Figures 6 and 7). Smooth out wrinkles and fold the Top in half from front to rear. You may then fold the Top to the back.

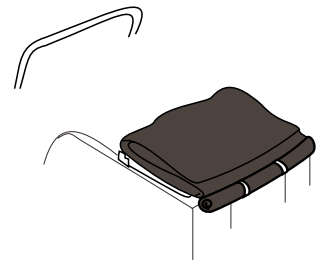
**Figure 5**



**Figure 6**



**Figure 7**



## Storing the Top

Place sheets of paper over each window before storing. This will protect against scratches. Store the Top by folding and removing from vehicle. Keep the Top stored in its original shipping container in a cool, dry place.