

## TJ Gas Tank Skid Plate Installation Instructions

Congratulations on the purchase of your new gas tank skid plate for your TJ. In addition to increased ground clearance, this product provides the ultimate in protection for your vehicle's damage prone fuel tank. This skid plate was designed to REPLACE the stock factory gas tank skid plate on Jeep TJ models 1997-present.

**WARNING:** The fuel system is under constant fuel pressure even with the engine off. This pressure must be released before removal of the factory skid plate. Although outlined in these instructions, reference is made to the Factory Service Manual for a complete procedure for releasing fuel system pressure.

**Helpful Hints:** The gas tank skid plate will be much easier to install with a near- empty fuel tank, the use of a floor jack and the help of an assistant. The product ships bare metal and should be primed and painted prior to installation.

### FUEL SYSTEM PRESSURE RELEASE PROCEDURE

1. Remove fuel cap.
2. Place a nonmetallic object into fuel fill tube and press on flap to relieve any tank pressure.
3. Remove Fuel Pump relay from Power Distribution Center (PDC) under the hood. For location of relay, refer to label on underside of PDC cover.
4. Start and run engine until it stalls.
5. Attempt restarting engine until it will no longer run. Turn ignition key to OFF position and disconnect the negative battery cable.

### FACTORY SKID PLATE REMOVAL

1. Remove 8 screws retaining plastic fuel filler bezel to body. Remove fuel filler bezel. Replace cap to prevent contaminants from entering tank.
2. Cut plastic tie wrap securing rear axle vent hose to fuel filler hoses.
3. Remove braided electrical grounding strap from frame crossmember directly in front of fuel filler hose. *Note: Some 1999 and new models may not have this braided grounding strap.*
4. Disconnect electrical connector at front of fuel tank by sliding red tab over and separating (Fig. 1).
5. Disconnect EVAP hose from EVAP line at front of fuel tank (Fig. 1).
6. Disconnect quick-connect fitting from fuel line at front of fuel tank (Fig. 1) by gently squeezing the two plastic retainer tabs (Fig. 2) together with your fingers. A tool is not required for removal and may damage plastic retainer. Gently pull apart.
7. The fuel tank and skid plate are removed as an assembly. Centrally position a floor jack under skid plate/fuel tank assembly.

8. Remove three skid plate-to-body nuts at front of tank and four at the rear of the tank. Do not loosen tank strap nuts.
9. Lower the tank assembly while guiding filler hoses.
10. To separate tank from skid plate, remove two protective caps at tank straps and remove tank strap nuts.

## Four X Doctor Skid Plate Installation

The gas tank skid plate may need some adjustment. Raise the empty skid plate into position on the body and check for fit. Some models may require the front passengerside mounting bracket to be bent slightly rearward. If necessary, stand on end on its single mount and push down on the opposite corner of skid plate.

1. Transfer retaining straps and place fuel tank into skid plate. Wrap straps around tank with strap studs inserted through holes in skid plate. Tighten strap nuts to 40 in.-lbs. torque so that tank is secure. **Do not over tighten nuts.** Install two protective caps to tank strap studs.
2. Raise skid plate/fuel tank assembly into position on body while guiding filler hoses.
3. Install 7 skid plate mounting nuts. Tighten to 141 in.-lbs. Torque.
4. Connect electrical connector at front of tank and slide red tab closed.
5. Connect EVAP hose to EVAP line at front of tank.
6. Connect quick-connect fitting to fuel line at front of fuel tank by pushing together. When a connection is made, a click will be heard.
7. Use a new plastic tie wrap to secure rear axle vent hose to fuel filler hoses.
8. Position fuel filler bezel to body. Install 8 screws and tighten. Replace filler cap.
9. Connect negative battery cable to battery.
10. Start vehicle and inspect for leaks.

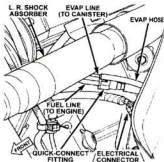


Fig. 1 Fuel Tank Connections

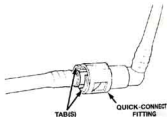


Fig. 2 Two-Tab Type Quick-Connect Fitting