



Hood Installation Instructions

Suncoast Automotive Performance hoods are true bolt on parts specifically designed and produced to provide the fit and finish of an OEM metal hood with minimal or zero modifications required. You will still need to take proper precautions during fit check, painting, and final installation to assure the best possible look for your vehicle.

The attached procedures are general recommendations that will guide you through the process. While it is not too technically difficult we, at Suncoast, recommend you use a trained automotive paint and body professional you trust for painting and installing your new hood. Please read all instructions prior to starting any work.

1. Test Fit. If there are adjustments to be made to the hood, fenders, hinges, latch area, or cold air induction heat shield, it is recommended to do before painting. All vehicles are subject to some variation during manufacture and assembly. Most vehicles have been designed to accommodate this variation as well as allow a small amount of body panel adjustment to overcome minor traffic mishaps.

1.1. Remove your existing hood from the vehicle hinges.

Warning! Hoods are heavy and cumbersome to handle. You should always work with at least a two person team to accomplish hood removal and replacement.

1.2. Your hood will either require transfer of the latch hardware from your original equipment or will have new latch hardware pre-installed depending on your model. We provide pre-tapped ¼" steel bolt plates wherever factory hardware is to be transferred.

1.3. Loosely mount your SUNCOAST hood on the existing hinges using the original vehicle mounting hardware.

1.4. Once you have bolted your new hood to the hinges slowly close your hood while looking for interferences or misalignments. To overcome side to side misalignments first attempt to shift the alignment of the hood on the hinges. This may include loosening the hood bolts as well as the frame bolts. Shim kits are available from your local auto professional or parts store if height adjustment is needed.

1.5. Check for proper fit to your stock air box, your Suncoast air box kit or your cold air intake, depending on your selected option. Your hood model may be available in one, two, or all three of these possible intake interfaces. Consult your catalog or your dealer for details.

1.5.1. Simple Cold Air Induction. You may use the hood for non-sealed path cold air induction into your engine compartment. If so, there should be no interferences with any of the components in your engine compartment. No



Hood Installation Instructions

further air box fit check is required. (Note: Hoods sold as styling only will use this interface.)

- 1.5.2. Stock Air Box Ram Air. If your hood was designed to interface with your stock air box you will receive an air path seal and air box template. The fit of your hood should not interfere with the standard engine air box and should leave a gap between the hood outlet and the top of your stock air box approximately equal to the thickness of the seal provided with your hood. It is recommended that you wait to complete the modifications of your stock air box until after you are completely satisfied with the fit check and the hood has returned from paint.
- 1.5.3. Suncoast Air Box Ram Air. There should be no interferences with any of the components in your engine compartment. See the installation instructions delivered with your Suncoast Air Box Kit. Install the Suncoast Air Box Components according to the instructions. Check for and air seal without interference.
- 1.5.4. Cold Air Intake Ram Air. If you plan on installing a cold air intake system during this vehicle upgrade, install it now per the manufacturer's instructions prior to completing your fit check and painting your hood. Cold Air heat shields should either leave a gap or just touch/contact the hood underside but should not interfere with the underside of hood. The best installation condition is when the heat shield rubber top seal makes light contact with the hood around the hood's outlet vent. If an interference condition exists, remove the rubber seal from the cold air heat shield if it has one. Carefully trim the heat shield to a height where light contact will result then reinstall the rubber top seal (if applicable).
- 1.6. Examine the gap between the hood and the adjacent vehicle parts. Many of these parts can be adjusted also. If body panels need adjustment they can simply be loosened and repositioned both laterally and with shims as discussed above.
- 1.7. Once you have adjusted these adjacent parts to get the most uniform gap possible, any remaining variation can be removed by lightly sanding the hood edge. This is best done using 200 grit sandpaper mounted on a straight block. Attempting to sand the edge without the use of a block could result in a non-uniform hood edge.
- 1.8. If there are any fit issues regarding the hood Suncoast can work with you to resolve them prior to the hood being painted. Once painted, we will not exchange for replacement or pay for repaint.

2. Surface preparation for paint

- 2.1. Clean surface of hood with wax and grease remover that is compatible to your paint system.
- 2.2. We recommend using 180 to 220 grit sand paper for scuffing the entire surface area. This assures excellent adhesion of the primer, as well as smoothes any possible scratches or gel coat imperfections.



Hood Installation Instructions

- 2.3. Wash again with wax and grease remover and let dry before applying primer.
- 2.4. Apply primer per the primer manufacturer's instructions.
- 2.5. After primer is cured, sand to the recommended topcoat finish specified by paint manufacturer.

3. Paint Selection and Preparation

- 3.1. Only high quality automotive paint should be used on your new Suncoast Hood. We recommend using a flex agent additive. Consult an automotive paint and body professional to assist in this selection.

4. Final Installation and Adjustment.

- 4.1. Simply unbolt your old hood from the hinges and bolt on the painted Suncoast hood.

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- 4.2. Once you have bolted your new hood to the hinges slowly close your hood while looking for interferences or misalignments. These should be minimal since you already accomplished the alignment once during the fit check. If necessary, first attempt to shift the alignment of the hood on the hinges. This may include loosening the hood bolts as well as the frame bolts. Shim kits are available from your local auto professional or parts store if height adjustment is needed.
- 4.3. If body panels need adjustment they can simply be loosened and repositioned both laterally and with shims as discussed above.

5. Air box Modification for a sealed air path.

- 5.1. Many Suncoast Ram Air Hoods are designed to provide a sealed air path to force cool outside air from above the hood directly into the closed air box of the engine. You will have received a template and installation instructions if your hood and vehicle model are designed for this type of installation. Once your new Suncoast hood has been installed, follow the air box modification instructions included with your hood. You may also elect to use a high flow air cleaner in the seal air path formed by your new hood and modified air box. The proper part number will be listed on the cutout template. This K&N Model filter may be ordered from Suncoast or your local parts store.