

# RETROFIT OFFROAD

## INSTALLING THE HARDTOP SLIDER WINDOW KIT



### KIT CONTENTS

- \* Two slider windows
- \* Weatherstrip and caulk to seal the windows to the hardtop
- \* Screws to attach the clamp ring to the slider window frame
- \* Hardtop Retrofit Kit

Tools required for this project include a long-bladed utility knife for cutting the factory window adhesive, a chisel or other narrow scraper to remove remnants of the adhesive, a cutting tool for trimming the window opening (more on this later in the instructions), and a nut driver/socket wrench for installing the window clamp ring screws. None of the tools required are things that a typical DIY-er might not have in their tool collection or couldn't acquire at a very reasonable cost.

The photos in these instructions show a side panel from that's been cut from a factory hardtop with most of the work done on a workbench. In a typical installation the hardtop will be intact as it left the factory so the work will probably be done while the hardtop is still on the Jeep. None of the steps shown in this document are different when doing the work on a hardtop on a Jeep. The illustrations in these instructions are of a 4-door window installation. The 2-door window kit is installed in the same way.

The first step of the process is to remove the factory windows. These are bonded in place by a bead of semi-soft adhesive and removal involves cutting the adhesive. If you're not comfortable with this step, an automotive glass or body shop will probably be willing to do the removal step for you for a reasonable cost.

We recommend reading these instructions all the way through before beginning.

1. Using a long-bladed utility knife, cut the adhesive loose from the glass. This will probably take multiple passes, and some force may be required to cut through the tough adhesive. You're cutting through about 3/4" of adhesive, so you probably won't cut all the way through in one pass. Multiple passes cutting deeper each time is the way to go. Figure five minutes per window side times 4 sides per window = 20 minutes. Working on a hardtop on a Jeep, we recommend cutting the bottom and sides first, then working on the top edge. Once the top edge is almost cut through, you can tilt the glass up from the outside and make the last cut, which ensures you the last cut won't cause the glass to fall on the floor and shatter.



*Since some force will be required to cut the tough adhesive, be very careful with the sharp knife. A slip of the knife could be very dangerous if your free hand is in the path of the slipping knife.*

The cutting of the adhesive might go a bit easier if the blade is lubricated. A shot of dish soap would help the blade glide through the rubber that's already been cut on a prior pass of the knife, so all of the force for the current pass would go to cutting deeper rather than dragging it through the cut slot in the rubber.

2. This is what the hardtop looks like after the glass is removed - there's still a 3/4" wide x 1/4" thick bead of rubber sealant stuck to the fiberglass.



3. A sharp chisel or scraper makes quick work of removing the remaining adhesive.

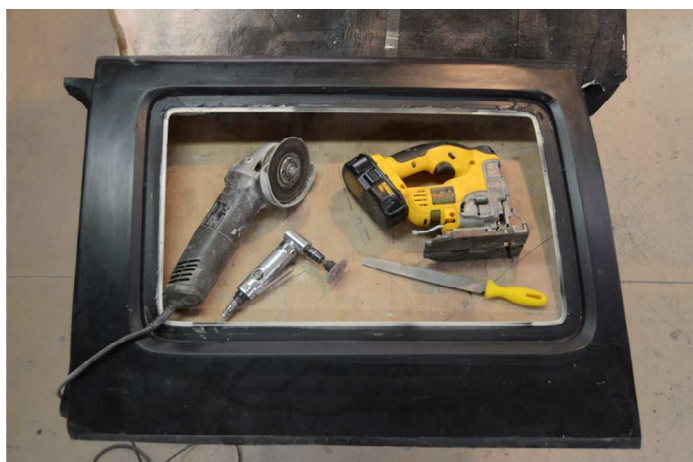


4. Finished. It took a little less than 30 minutes work to get to this point, both windows of a JK Unlimited hardtop could be removed in about an hour. A 2-door might take slightly longer because the windows are longer - there's more adhesive to cut.





The window opening will need to be trimmed slightly in order to fit the slider window. Cutting can be done with an angle grinder with a cutting disk, a jigsaw with a very fine tooth blade or abrasive cutting blade installed (don't use a large-toothed blade as it may crack the fiberglass), or an air die grinder with a coarse sanding disk. Final adjustment can be done with sandpaper or a file.



5. Set the retrofit kit frame in the window opening. Any of the original window opening that lies inside the opening in the retrofit kit must be trimmed away using one of the tools described above. A Sharpie marker can be used to trace the inside of the opening on the hardtop.



6. Once the holes is cut, set the retrofit kit back in place and note any areas which will need adjustment – using sandpaper or a file remove any additional material necessary so that the window opening in the hardtop matches the inside opening of the retrofit kit. The result should looks something like this.

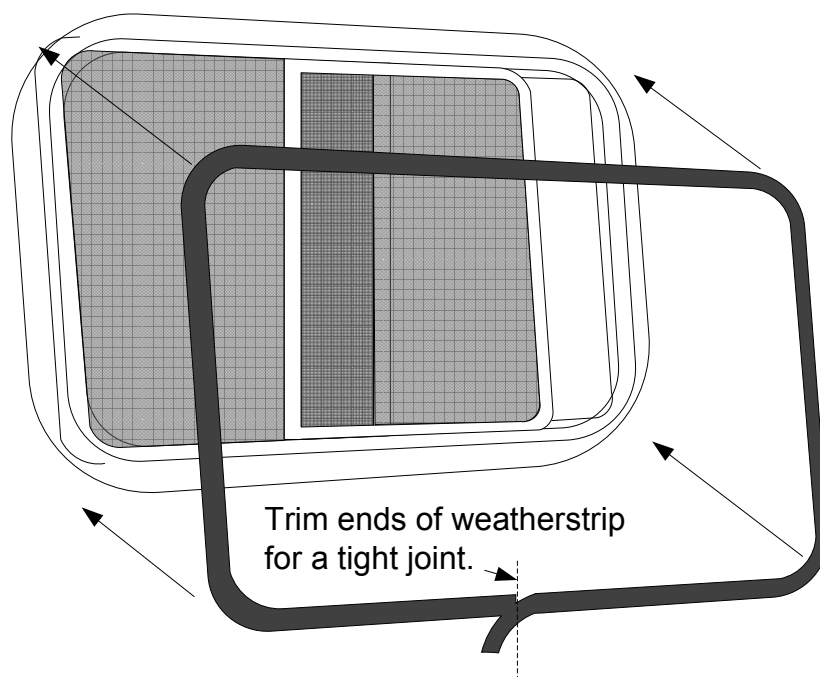
As a further test, the slider window can be test fit in the opening, if there's any binding on the inside of the opening a little trimming or sanding is probably still required.



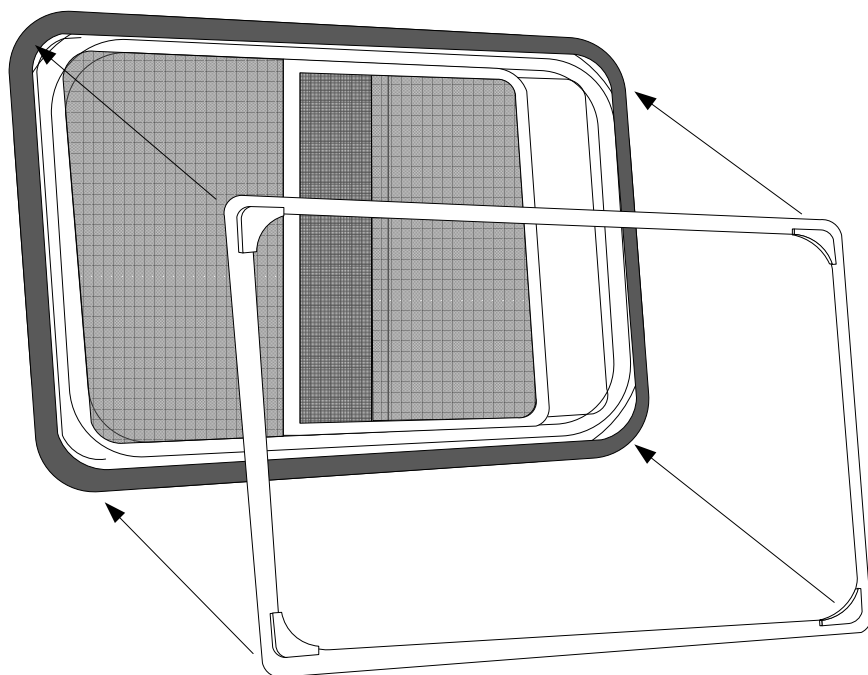
Once the opening is trimmed, the window and retrofit kit can be installed.

Before going on to the next steps, if there are any scratches in the paint around the window opening, these can be touched up - a 5-oz. spray can of black "hardtop color" paint is part #68060406AA from the Jeep dealer; color-match paint for other colors is also available at the dealer.

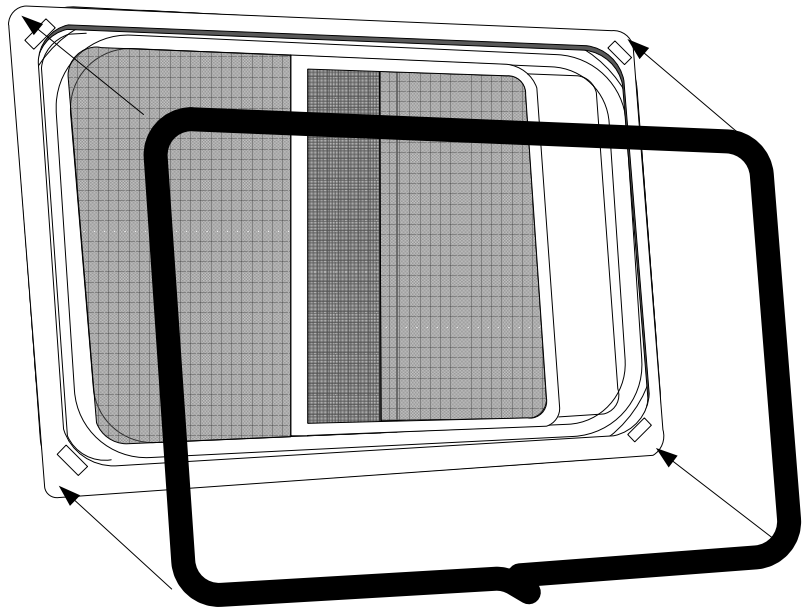
7. Apply the flat weatherstrip to the inside of the mounting flange on the window frame. The weatherstrip has adhesive on both sides; leave the protective paper on the exposed edge of the weatherstrip for now. The weatherstrip should be even with the outside edge of the frame, and the ends should meet at the bottom of the frame; trim the ends for a tight joint.



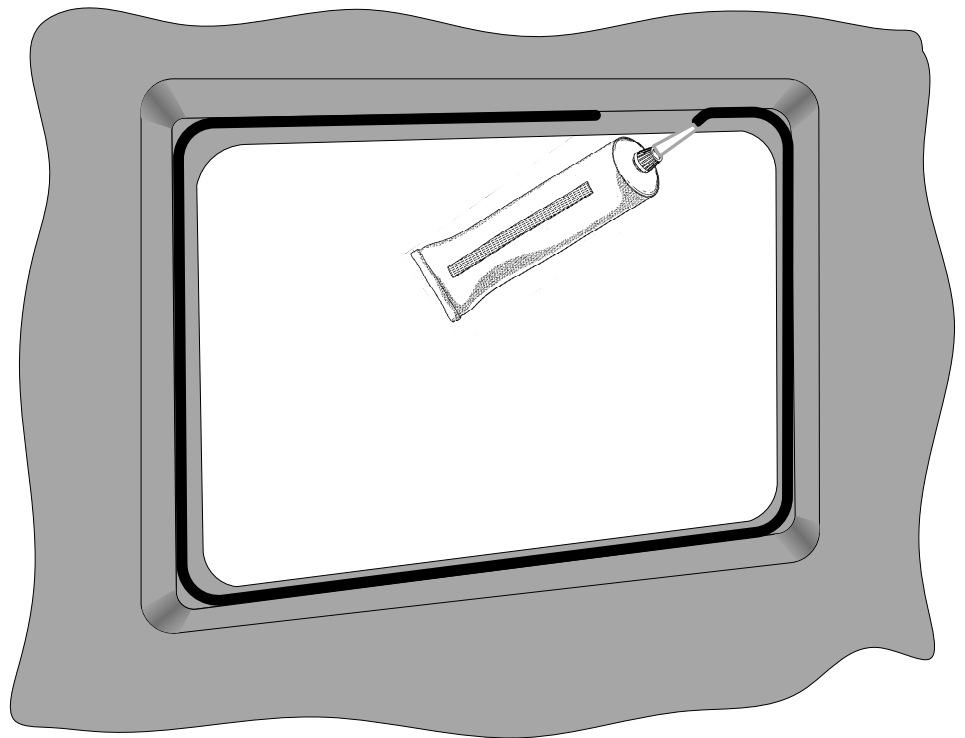
8. Remove the protective paper from the weatherstrip you applied in step 1 and install the retrofit kit frame to that weatherstrip. Push the retrofit kit frame and the window frame together all the way around to ensure a good bond between the window frame, weatherstrip, and retrofit kit frame.



9. Apply the bulb weatherstrip to the inside of the retrofit kit frame. The weatherstrip should be even with the outside edge of the retrofit kit frame. The weatherstrip ends should meet at the bottom of the frame, and should be trimmed for a tight joint.

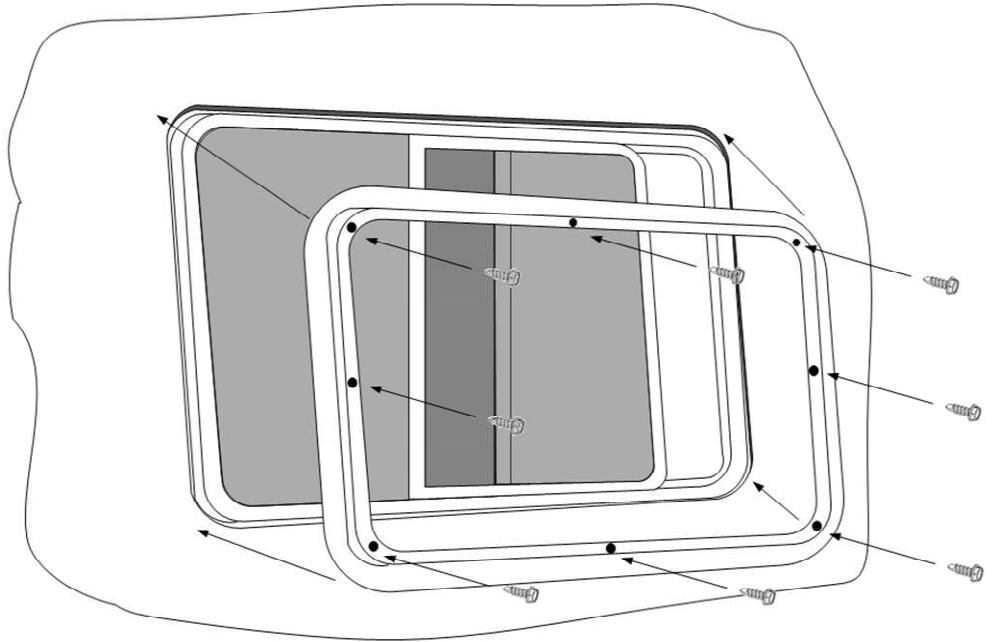


10. Apply a bead of caulk to the inside of the window recess in the hardtop. The caulk should be along the corner where the window mounting surface joins the sides of the recess.



11. Have a helper insert the retrofit kit/window assembly into the window opening from the outside of the hardtop and hold it in place while you install the window clamp ring with the supplied screws. The screws are self-drilling/self tapping, and a nut driver (either handheld or in a battery-powered driver) will drive them without slipping. 1"-long screws will be used in each corner of the window and 3/4" screws will be used in the center of each edge of the window. Drive each screw in until it holds the clamp ring and the window firmly together but do not overtighten.

*(The illustration below shows the 4-door window kit; the 2-door kit has one additional screw hole in the clamp ring)*



When installing the window/retrofit kit assembly, ensure that compression weatherstrip you applied in step 9 is in contact with the caulk you applied in step 10 all the way around the frame.

