

# **IMPORTANT**

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**USE THE PROVIDED  
REPLACEMENT UCA  
HARDWARE. DO NOT  
RE-USE THE OE  
HARDWARE.**

# INSTALLATION GUIDE



Part#: 011350, 011351



**HARDCORE LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY**

## **3.5" BDS Performance Suspension System**

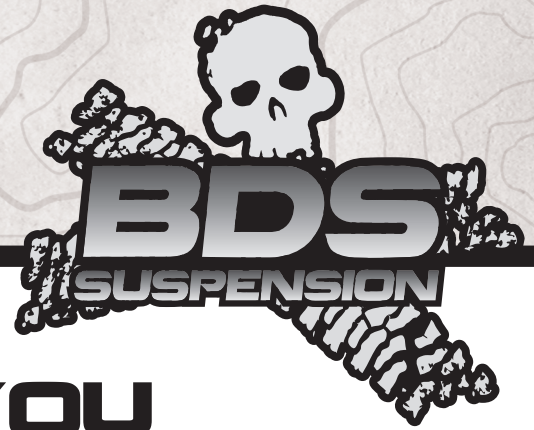
**Chevy 1500 4WD / 2WD | 2019-2026**  
**GMC 1500 4WD / 2WD | 2019-2026**

Rev. 112625

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# Read And Understand All Instructions And Warnings Prior To Installation Of System And Operation Of Vehicle.



## THANK YOU

Your truck is about to be fitted with the best suspension system on the market today. That means you will be driving the baddest looking truck in the neighborhood, and you'll have the warranty to ensure that it stays that way for years to come.

Thank you for choosing BDS Suspension!

### BEFORE YOU START

BDS Suspension Co. recommends this system be installed by a professional technician. In addition to these instructions, professional knowledge of disassembly/ reassembly procedures and post installation checks must be known.

### FOR YOUR SAFETY

Certain BDS Suspension products are intended to improve off-road performance. Modifying your vehicle for off-road use may result in the vehicle handling differently than a factory equipped vehicle. Extreme care must be used to prevent loss of control or vehicle rollover. Failure to drive your modified vehicle safely may result in serious injury or death. BDS Suspension Co. does not recommend the combined use of suspension lifts, body lifts, or other lifting devices. You should never operate your modified vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Always drive your modified vehicle at reduced speeds to ensure your ability to control your vehicle under all driving conditions. Always wear your seat belt.

### BEFORE INSTALLATION

- Special literature required: OE Service Manual for model/year of vehicle. Refer to manual for proper disassembly/reassembly procedures of OE and related components.
- Adhere to recommendations when replacement fasteners, retainers and keepers are called out in the OE manual.
- Larger rim and tire combinations may increase leverage on suspension, steering, and related components. When selecting combinations larger than OE, consider the additional stress you could be inducing on the OE and related components.
- Post suspension system vehicles may experience drive line vibrations. Angles may require tuning, slider on shaft may require replacement, shafts may need to be lengthened or trued, and U-joints may need to be replaced.
- Secure and properly block vehicle prior to installation of BDS Suspension components. Always wear safety glasses when using power tools.
- If installation is to be performed without a hoist, BDS Suspension Co. recommends rear alterations first.
- Due to payload options and initial ride height variances, the amount of lift is a base figure. Final ride height dimensions may vary in accordance to original vehicle attitude. Always measure the attitude prior to beginning installation.



Visit [560plus.com](http://560plus.com) for more information.

### TIRES AND WHEELS

5-1/2" MAX Backspace Wheel

35x12.50 20x9 or 18x9; 5-1/2" BS (Chevy)  
33x12.50 20x9 or 18x9; 5-1/2" BS (GMC)  
295/60 20x9; 5-1/2" BS (GMC)  
295/60 20x9; 5-1/2" to 4-1/2" BS (Chevy)  
305/55 20x9; 5-1/2" to 4-1/2" BS (Chevy & GMC)  
295/65 18x9; 5-1/2" to 4-1/2" BS (Chevy & GMC)  
295/70 17x9; 5-1/2" to 4-1/2" BS (Chevy & GMC)



### BEFORE YOU DRIVE

Check all fasteners for proper torque. Check to ensure for adequate clearance between all rotating, mobile, fixed, and heated members. Verify clearance between exhaust and brake lines, fuel lines, fuel tank, floor boards and wiring harness. Check steering gear for clearance. Test and inspect brake system.

Perform steering sweep to ensure front brake hoses have adequate slack and do not contact any rotating, mobile or heated members. Inspect rear brake hoses at full extension for adequate slack. Failure to perform hose check/ replacement may result in component failure. Longer replacement hoses, if needed can be purchased from a local parts supplier.

Perform head light check and adjustment.

Re-torque all fasteners after 500 miles. Always inspect fasteners and components during routine servicing.

# CONTENTS OF YOUR KIT

011350 / 011351 Box Kit		
Part #	Qty	Description
A408	1	UCA Assembly - DRV
05094	1	GM 1500 UCA - Tubular - DRV
500-1105	1	Ball Joint
BDS222760	1	BDS UCA Sticker
SB02A241190	2	UCA Bushings
A409	1	UCA Assembly - PASS
05095	1	GM 1500 UCA - Tubular - PASS
500-1105	1	Ball Joint
BDS222760	1	BDS UCA Sticker
SB02A241190	2	UCA Bushings
02911	2	Ball Joint Cap
9452K145	2	O-Ring
02826	2	Steering Stops
874	1	Bolt Pack - Cable Clamp
	3	Wire Clamp
	2	1/4"-20 x 3/4" Bolt, Grade 5, Clear Zinc
	2	1/4"-20 Prevailing Torque Nut, Clear Zinc
	4	1/4" SAE Washer, Clear Zinc
	2	12mm Nylock Nuts
640	1	Bolt Pack
	4	14mm-2.00 x 80mm Bolt, Class 10.9, Clear Zinc
	4	14mm-2.00 Prevailing Torque Nut, Clear Zinc
	8	14mm Washer, Clear Zinc
374	1	Bolt Pack
	2	10mm-1.50 x 75mm Allen Head Bolt
3296	2	Rear Bump Stop Spacer
03950	2	2.5" Rear Lift Block
962121000QB	4	9/16"-2-1/2"-10" Square U-Bolt (011350 Only)
W96S-B	8	9/16" SAE Flat Washer (011350 Only)
N96FH-B	8	9/16" Fine High Nut- Black (011350 Only)
122341100RB	4	1/2"-2-3/4"-11" Round U-Bolt (011351 Only)
W12SB	8	1/2" SAE Flat Washer (011351 Only)
N12FH-B	8	1/2" Fine High Nut- Black (011351 Only)

## TROUBLESHOOTING INFORMATION FOR YOUR VEHICLE

1. BDS081203 ball joint service kit is used this for replacement purposes if a new ball joint is ever needed. Ball joint is directional and must be installed with the 'dot' facing either inward or outward on the vehicle, otherwise damage may occur.
2. The BDS Performance Coilover Suspension System can be used on Trail Boss/ AT4 models, but will result in 1.5" of front lift compared to the stock configuration.
3. Requires a maximum of 5.5" BS Wheel for tire clearance to the upper ball joint when used on 2-3.5" coilover kits.
4. Do NOT hit the aluminum knuckle with a hammer to separate the ball joint or tie rod end. Use appropriate ball joint / tie rod end separation tool.
5. Will not work with models with a single rear leaf spring (mono-leaf) suspension.

**TECH  
TIPS**

# PRE INSTALLATION

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## IMPORTANT

It is required that ride height measurements be taken before and after installation. Measure from the **WHEEL AXLE CENTER** up to the **FENDER LIP** of the wheel opening. Do this for all 4 wheels. Record measurements below.\*\*

### BEFORE

*Left Front* \_\_\_\_\_ *Right Front* \_\_\_\_\_

*Left Rear* \_\_\_\_\_ *Right Rear* \_\_\_\_\_

### AFTER

*Left Front* \_\_\_\_\_ *Right Front* \_\_\_\_\_

*Left Rear* \_\_\_\_\_ *Right Rear* \_\_\_\_\_



**\*\*These ride heights will be required if you have any ride height concerns after installation. Please be prepared to provide these to Technical Support.**

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

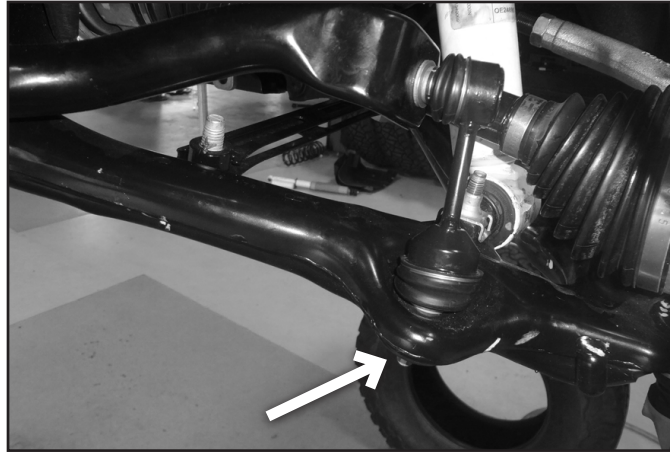
## SPECIAL TOOLS

### INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Park the vehicle on a clean, flat surface and block the rear wheels for safety.
2. Raise the front of the vehicle and support the frame rails with jack stands.
3. Remove the front wheels.
4. Disconnect the front driver's and passenger's side sway bar links from the lower control arm (Fig. 1). Save hardware.

Basic Hand Tools / Socket and Wrench Set up to 21mm  
Jack Stands  
Tape Measure  
Cut Off Wheel / Reciprocating Saw  
Welder (Optional)  
Ball Joint Separation Tool (Recommended)

**FIGURE 1**



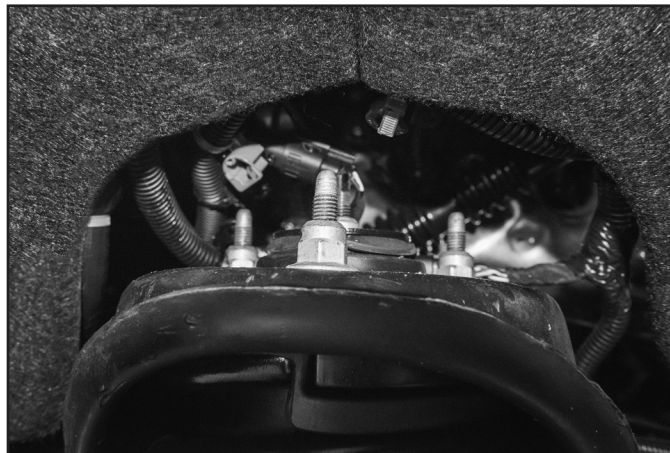
### PERFORM THE FOLLOWING INSTALLATION STEPS ON ONE SIDE AT A TIME.

5. Remove the wire retaining clips from the strut studs and loosen but do not remove the three upper strut mount nuts at the frame (Fig. 2). Do not loosen- the center strut rod nut.



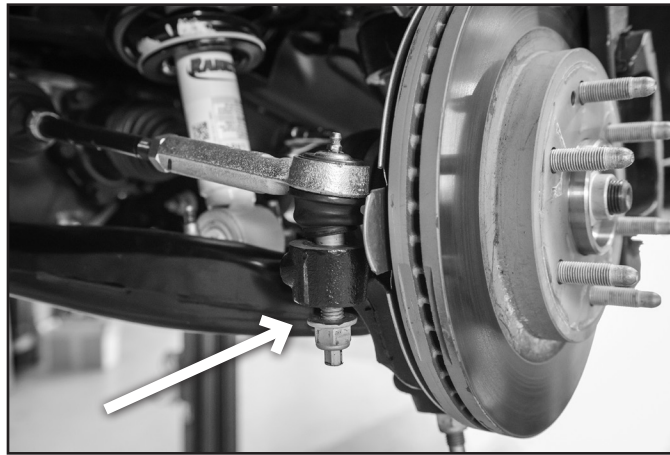
**Tip** For the passenger side inner nut it may be easier to access the nut through the engine bay.

**FIGURE 2**



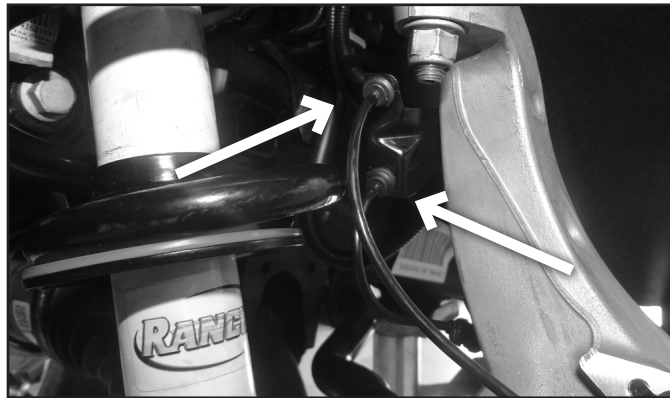
6. Remove the nut from the steering tie rod end (Fig. 3). Thread the nut back on a couple of turns by hand. Strike the knuckle near the tie rod end to dislodge the rod end taper from the knuckle. Remove the nut and the tie rod end from the knuckle. Save nut.

**FIGURE 3**



7. Unclip the ABS wire from the knuckle for additional slack (Fig. 4). Unclip the brake pad sensor on the driver side of the vehicle for additional slack.

**FIGURE 4**



8. Support the lower control arm with a hydraulic jack. Remove the upper ball joint nut and thread back on a couple of turns by hand. Separate the upper ball joint from the steering knuckle, use of a ball joint separation tool to dislodge it from the knuckle is recommended. (Fig. 5A) Remove the nut and remove the ball joint from the knuckle. Allow the knuckle to rest back away from the front strut.

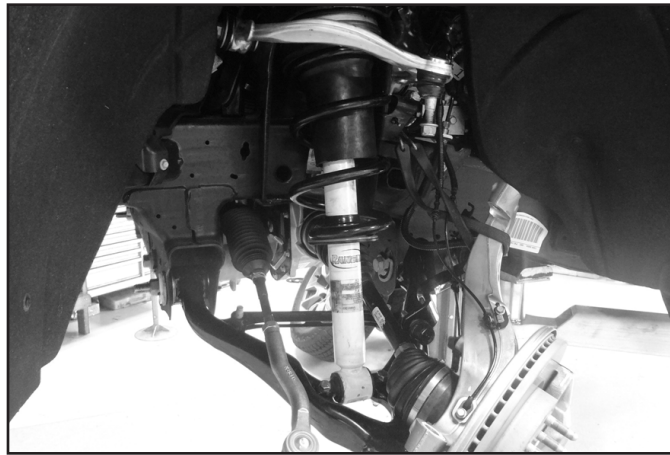


**Tip** A strap can be used to hold the knuckle back in order to prevent the CV axle from pulling out of the inner joint.

**FIGURE 5A**



**FIGURE 5B**



9. Remove the two lower strut bar pin bolts (Fig. 6). The bolts will not be reused. Lower the control arm with the jack so there is enough room to remove the factory strut.

**FIGURE 6**



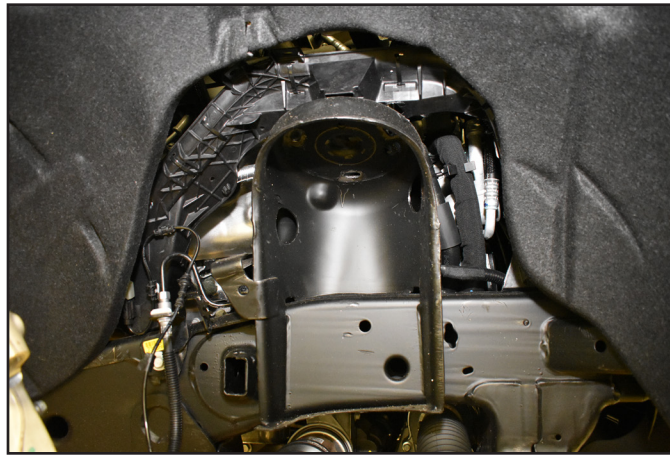
10. Remove the three nuts attaching the strut to the frame (Fig. 7). Remove the strut from the vehicle. DO NOT remove the center strut rod nut. Discard the nuts, they will not be reused.

**FIGURE 7**



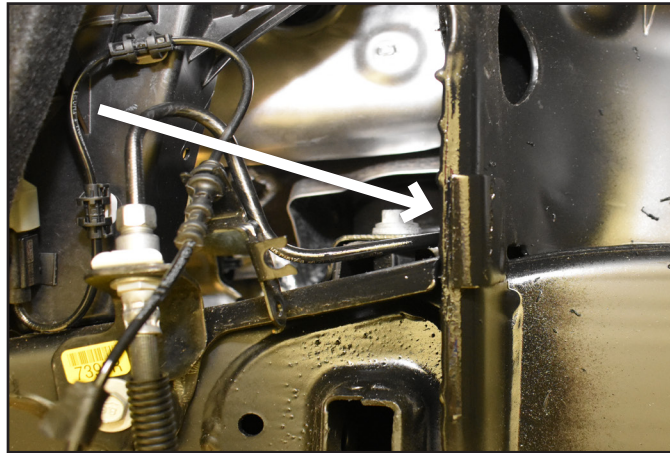
11. Remove the ABS wire / brake sensor wire from the upper control arm. Remove the upper control arm from the vehicle by removing the two bolts attaching the upper control arm to the strut bucket / frame (Fig. 8). Save hardware. If replacing the upper arm on a Denali truck, remove the sensor arm from the ball stud on the upper control arm.

**FIGURE 8**



12. The new replacement control arm assemblies have a larger profile than the OEM assemblies. They are also designed with a wider range of available travel. Due to these unique differences, the tab on the side of the strut bucket must be removed to avoid interfering with the proper function of the new control arm assembly. Cut the tab from the side of the strut bucket as shown in Figure 9.

**FIGURE 9**



13. Install the new upper control arm to the vehicle using the **new provided 14mm bolts, washers, and nuts from Bolt Pack 640 and using thread locker**. Run the bolt with a washer from the inside out of the strut bucket outwards with a washer and nut on the outer bushing washer surface. Do this for the front and rear control arm mounts. (Fig. 10) Snug up hardware.

**FIGURE 10**



**IMPORTANT**

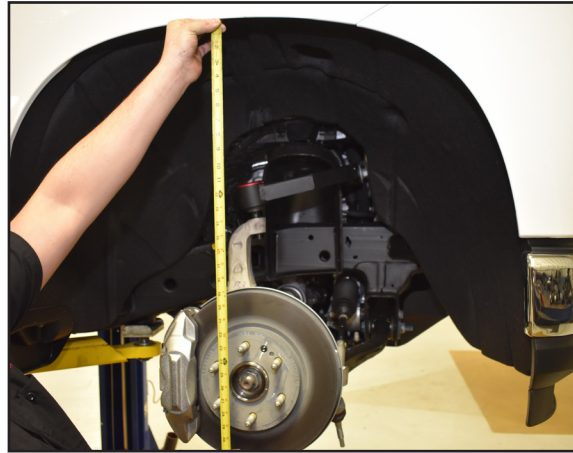
**FAILURE TO FOLLOW  
PROCEDURE FOUND  
IN STEP 13 CAN  
RESULT IN BUSHING  
DAMAGE.**

14. Attach the ball joint on the new upper control arm to the knuckle. Snug up ball joint using the OE Nylock Nut, but do not torque down. The upper ball joint will be removed from the knuckle later so that the strut can be installed.

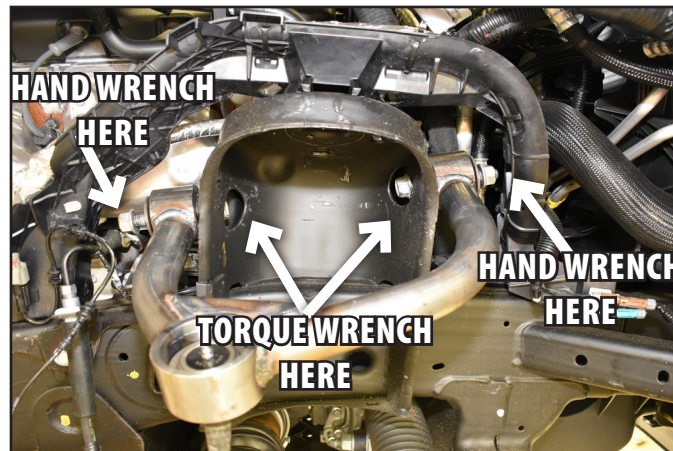
*Note: The OE nylock nut will only be temporarily used to set the control arm at the correct ride height so that the rubber bushing preload is correct. DO NOT USE THE OE NYLOCK NUT FOR THE FINAL INSTALL.*

15. Set the ride height from the fender lip to the center of the hub at 24-1/2" (2" Kits) or 25-3/4" (3.5" Kits). Using a torque wrench on the **inside of the strut bucket and a wrench on the outside bushing** to prevent the nut / bushing from moving, tighten the control arm hardware to **126 ft-lbs**. This will ensure the rubber bushings are tightened to the right position and not put preload in the rubber bushings. DO NOT spin the "bushing side" hardware when tightening, only tighten from the inside "frame side".

**FIGURE 11A**



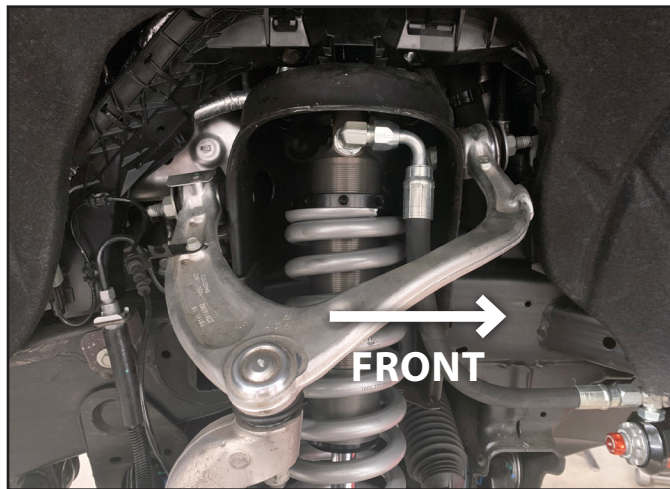
**FIGURE 11B**



## **FRONT ASSEMBLY**

16. Remove the upper ball joint from the knuckle. Discard OE nylock nut. Make sure the knuckle is supported so it does not pull out the CV.
17. Install the new FOX coil-over assembly. With remote reservoir models make sure that the hoses are facing outward and towards the front of the vehicle. (Fig. 12) Connect the top shock hat to the vehicle using the bolts and washers provided or with Performance Series models connect the top shock hat to the vehicle using the nuts provided. Tighten all three bolts or nuts to 24 ft-lbs.

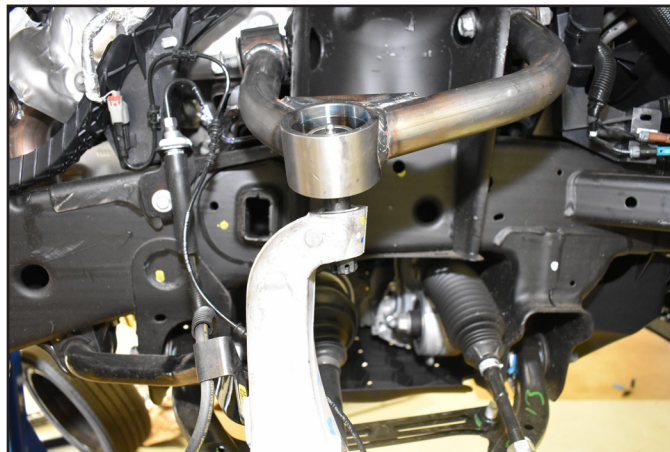
**FIGURE 12**



18. Connect the coil-over to the lower control arm using the supplied 10mm bolts and washers. Torque to 50 ft-lbs.
19. Reattach the upper ball joint to the knuckle (Fig. 13). **Use the provided 12mm nylock nuts in Bolt Pack 874.** Use the jack to support the lower control arm and torque the upper ball joint nut to 26 ft-lbs with the first pass and 60-75 degrees on the final pass.

*Note: DO NOT use the OE Nylock Nut.*

**FIGURE 13**



20. Reattach the tie rod to the knuckle and torque the factory nut to 44 ft-lbs.
21. Repeat installation on the opposite side of the vehicle. When both sides are complete, reattach the sway bar links and tighten hardware to 74 ft-lbs.
22. On external reservoir models, mount the reservoir onto the reservoir bracket on the bottom of the frame rail, forward the front cross member (Figure 14).

**FIGURE 14**



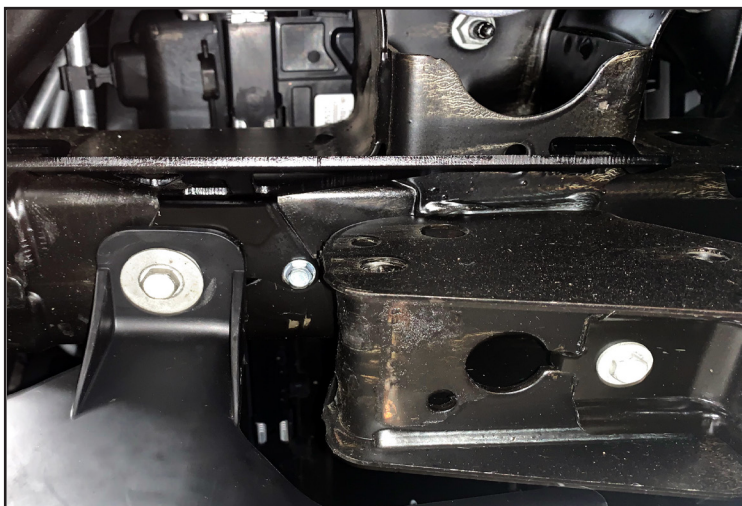
23. Install the remote reservoir bracket using the factory skid plate bolt. Ensure that the remote reservoir bracket is installed under the skid plate. The larger hole on the bracket goes toward the rear of the vehicle. Torque the splash shield bolt to 16 ft-lbs. (Fig. 15).

**FIGURE 15**



24. Using a 7/32" bit, drill a pilot hole for the provided self-tapping screw. This screw goes through the smaller hole on the reservoir bracket. This screw prevents rotation of the reservoir bracket (Fig. 16).

**FIGURE 16**



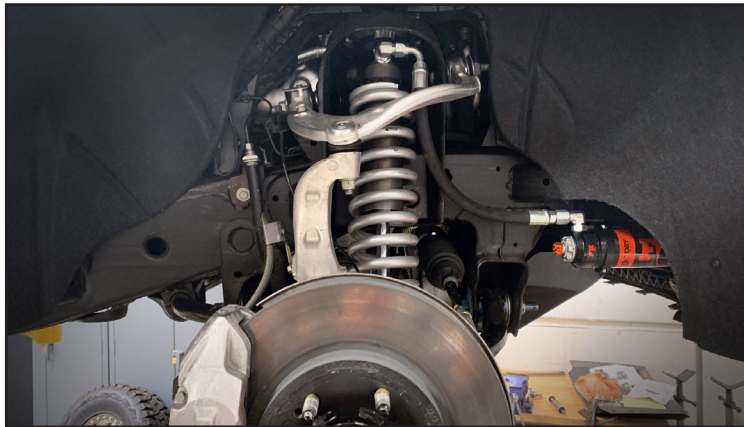
25. Now fully install the reservoir bracket onto the vehicle using the supplied 3/4" self-tapping screws.
26. Repeat the reservoir bracket installation steps on both sides of the vehicle.
27. Using two supplied billet clamps and screws, mount the reservoir to the brackets. Utilize the slots in the bracket to locate clamps. Do not feed the clamps through the slots in the brackets. Torque the (4) four socket head cap screws to 19 in-lbs. Repeat on both sides of the vehicle. (Fig. 17)

**FIGURE 17**



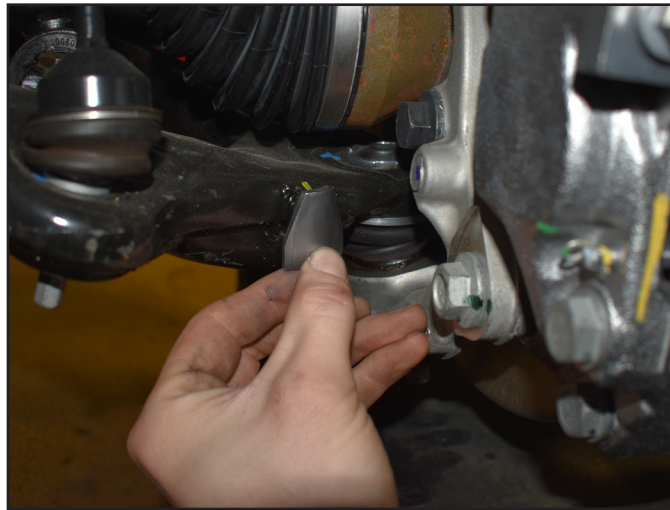
28. Installed coil-over will resemble Figure 18. (BDS UCA not shown)

**FIGURE 18**



29. Reattach the brake wire / ABS wires to the factory position on the knuckle. Use the provided wire clamps and 1/4" bolt to attach the brake wire / ABS wire to the upper control arm. Check for enough slack in the wires and adjust as necessary.
30. Reinstall the front wheels and lower the vehicle to the ground. Torque lug nuts to 140 ft-lbs in a crossing pattern.
31. Make sure the upper ball joint is greased at regular maintenance intervals (3-5,000 miles).
32. The grease fitting can be accessed using a flathead screwdriver and removing the cap from the ball joint cup.
33. Due to control arm clearance and certain size wheel and tire combinations, a steering stop may be required. These are only needed when the tire hits the upper control arm at full lock. Prep the lower control arm for welding, remove paint. Disconnect the battery in the truck to protect electronics.
34. Optional: Weld steering stop on to lower control arm as shown (Fig. 19).

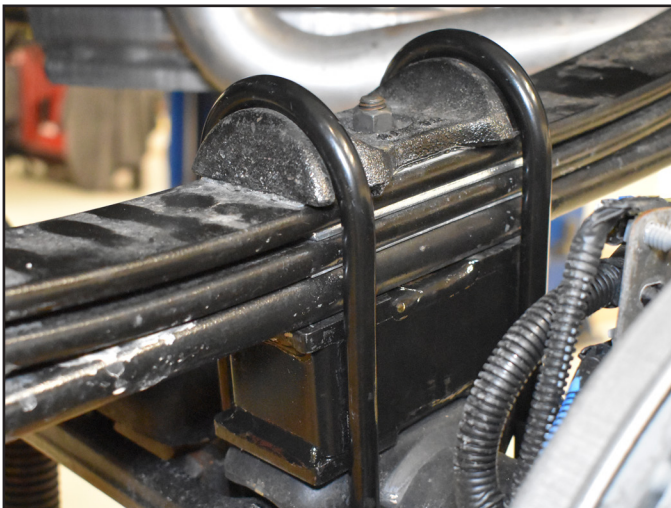
**FIGURE 19**



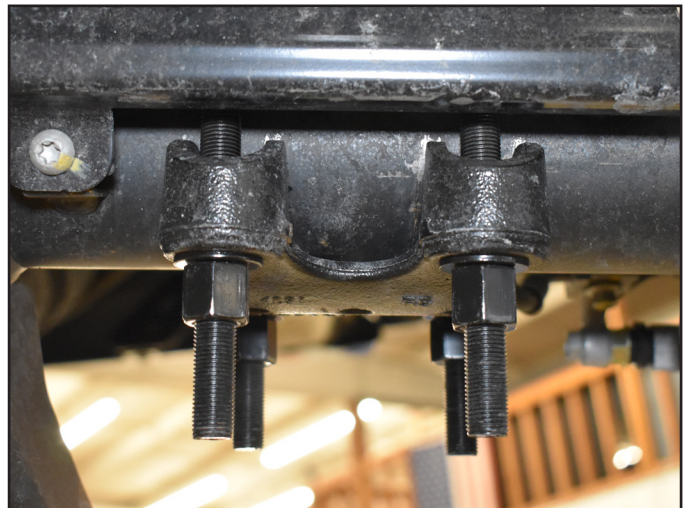
## REAR INSTALLATION

1. Block the front wheels for safety.
2. Raise the rear of the vehicle and support with jack stands under the frame rails.
3. Remove the rear wheels.
4. Support the rear axle under the differential with a floor jack.
5. Disconnect the rear shocks from the axle mounts. Save hardware.
6. Remove the passenger's side U-bolts and lower the axle away from the leaf spring. Remove the factory block from the axle and discard.
7. Place the new block between the axle and the leaf pack.
8. Slowly raise the axle with the hydraulic jack in order to assemble the blocks and leaf springs. Make sure that all of the locating pins are inside their female counterparts.
9. Install U-bolts with the supplied fasteners. Be sure the U-bolts are perpendicular to the axle before tightening. Snug up U-bolt hardware, the U-bolts will be torqued with the weight of the vehicle on the rear suspension. (Fig. 20A and 20B)

**FIGURE 20A (2025 PICTURED)**



**FIGURE 20B**



10. Repeat the block installation on the driver's side.

11. Remove the rear rubber bump stops from the frame. Access the bolt head up through the center of bump stop using a 10mm socket. Remove the bump stop and install the provided 3" diameter x 2" tall spacer between the bump stop and the frame mount with a 10mm Allen head bolt and thread locker. Center the spacer on the lip of the factory bump stop cup and torque bolt to 37 ft-lbs. (Fig. 21)

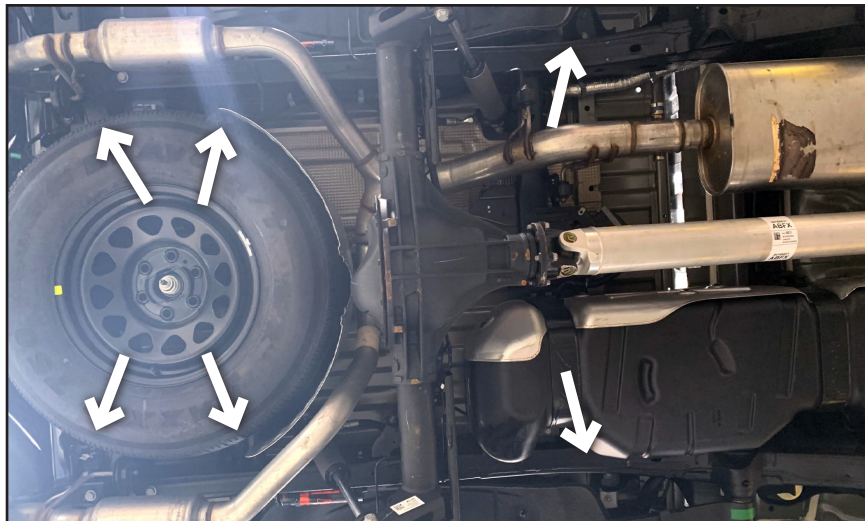
 **Tip** Hardware for the bump stop spacer is located in bolt pack 374.

**FIGURE 21**



12. For non-remote reservoir applications, install new Fox shocks reusing factory bolts and nuts. Torque to OEM specifications
13. For remote reservoir applications, FOX highly recommends raising the rear of the bed of the vehicle  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to prevent damage to the reservoir during the installation of the rear shocks. The reservoirs can be installed without raising the bed, however it is difficult and can cause cosmetic damage to the remote reservoirs on the shocks.
14. On 70-inch, short bed models, the bed is attached to the frame of the vehicle using (6) six bolts, (4) four rear bolts and (2) two front bolts (Fig. 22). Longer beds may have more bolts attaching the bed to the frame

**FIGURE 22**



15. Remove the rear bolts attaching the bed of the truck to the frame. DO NOT discard bolt bolts, as they will be used to reinstall the bed (Fig. 23).

**FIGURE 23**



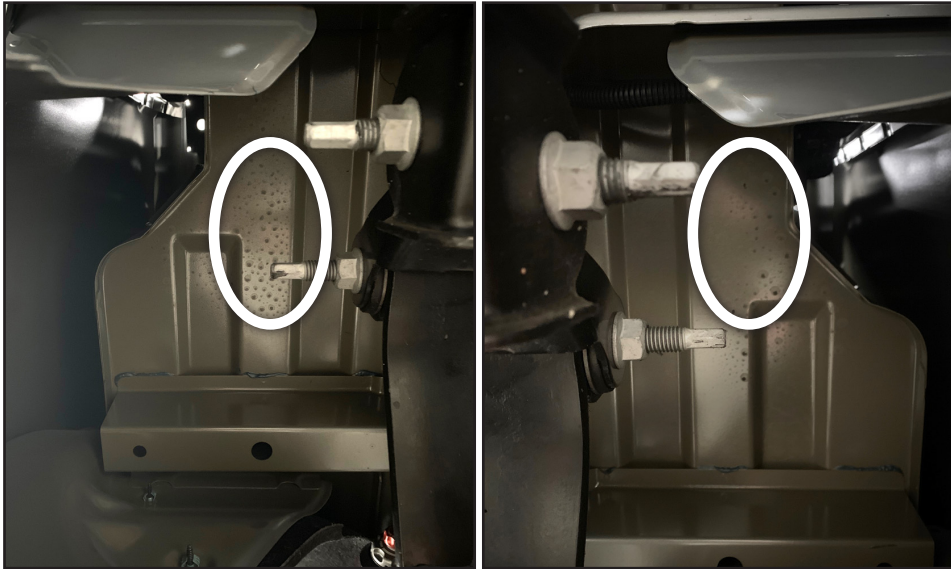
16. Loosen the (2) most forward bolts of the bed. DO NOT remove. These bolts keep the bed aligned while you lift the rear of the bed to slide the reservoirs between the bed and the frame rail (Fig. 24).

**FIGURE 24**



17. Once bed bolt removal is complete, slowly lift the rear of the bed from underneath the bed plate (Fig. 25). Lift the bed  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the frame rail (Fig. 26). DO NOT lift the bed from underneath the bedside as this may cause damage to the bedside. Be sure to check that the bed does not contact the cab of the truck as this could cause damage to the bed and the cab of the vehicle (Fig. 27).

**FIGURE 25**



**FIGURE 26**



**FIGURE 27**



18. Make sure to identify which shock goes on the correct side (Fig. 28). The driver side is shown on the left and the passenger side is shown on the right.

**FIGURE 28**



- Once the rear of the bed has been lifted off the frame, you can now slide the remote reservoirs between the bed (Fig. 29).

**FIGURE 29**



- Once the reservoirs have been slid between the frame and the bed of the vehicle, slowly lower and reattach the bed to the vehicle using the OEM hardware. Torque the box hardware to 63 ft-lbs.
- Using the OEM hardware install the upper and lower portions of the shocks on both sides of the vehicle. Tighten the upper and lower shock hardware to 70 ft-lbs.
- You must trim the fender liners on both sides of the vehicle as shown in Figure 30 for the reservoirs to fit correctly. The suggested shape of the trimming follows the curvature of the forward most fender liner, continues just below the 2 screws and then back to the rear of the fender liner.

**FIGURE 30**



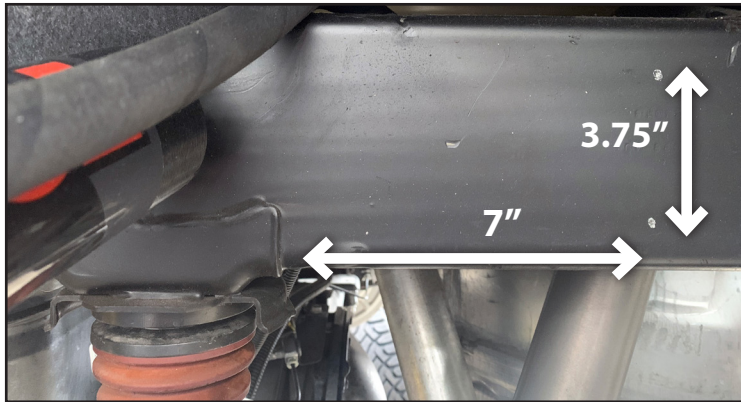
- The remote reservoirs mount to the vehicle using supplied mounting brackets toward the back of the vehicle in the wheel arch (Fig. 31). The left image in Figure 29 is the driver side and right image is the passenger side.

**FIGURE 31**



24. To install the rear reservoir brackets, you must drill a  $\frac{7}{32}$ " hole that is 7" away from the edge of the OEM bump stop mount toward the rear of the vehicle and 3-3/4" above the bottom of the frame rail (Fig. 32).

**FIGURE 32**



25. Install the bracket using one of the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " self-tapping screws to partially install the reservoir bracket. Ensure that you mount the bracket so that the forward most hole is the side that has the screw installed (Fig. 33).

**FIGURE 33**



26. Using the bracket as a guide, drill a  $\frac{7}{32}$ " hole through the rear most hole of the reservoir bracket. Install the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$ " self-tapping screw to fully install the reservoir bracket. There should be (2) two self-tapping screws in each bracket (Fig. 34).

**FIGURE 34**



27. Repeat reservoir installation steps on both sides of the vehicle.

- Using two supplied billet clamps and screws, mount the reservoir to the brackets. Utilize the slots in the bracket to locate clamps. Do not feed the clamps through the slots in the brackets. Torque the (4) four socket head cap screws to 19 in-lbs. (Fig. 35). Repeat on both sides of the vehicle.

**FIGURE 35**



- With both sides complete, install wheels and lower the vehicle to the ground. Torque lug nuts to 140 ft-lbs in a crossing pattern.
- Bounce the rear of the vehicle to settle the suspension.
- Tighten the U-bolt nuts in a cross pattern to 100-120 ft-lbs.

#### **POST INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

- Check all hardware for proper torque.
- Check hardware again after 500 miles and at regularly scheduled maintenance intervals.
- The vehicle will need a complete front end alignment.
- Adjust headlights.



#### **WE WANT TO SEE YOUR RIDE!**

Grab photos of your BDS-equipped truck in action and send them in for a chance to be featured. Send it in to our Bad Ass Rides customer gallery at [bds-suspension.com/bar](http://bds-suspension.com/bar) and post them on the BDS Fan Page on Facebook at [facebook.com/BDSSuspensions](https://facebook.com/BDSSuspensions). Don't forget about your BDS swag! BDS offers t-shirts, hoodies, decals and more available on the BDS website or through your local BDS distributor.

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## **TIME TO HAVE SOME FUN**

**Thank you for choosing BDS Suspension.**

For questions, technical support and warranty issues relating to this BDS Suspension product, please contact your distributor/installer before contacting BDS Suspension directly.