



820 RT 910 Cheswick, PA 15024 412-828-3599

**WORLD LEADER IN REMOVABLE HARDTOPS**

[SMOOTHLINE.COM](http://SMOOTHLINE.COM)

## **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS 1998 THRU 2004 C-5 CORVETTE Flush Mount All Small Window or Big Window (Plexiglas Only)**

You have just purchased the finest Hardtop available on the market today. Skilled craftsmen using the highest quality materials and modern technology have manufactured this product. **For complete satisfaction of your purchase we highly recommend that you read the following simple instructions.** Ascertain that your installer is qualified and insist that he reads and follows the instructions. By following these instructions you will have many years of enjoyment and the top will last as long as your car.

For best results, we recommend that your Hardtop be installed and finished by a professional body shop.

A point to remember, automobiles are mass-produced and built with certain tolerances. Sometimes these tolerances are quite large. No two are alike. A body man is a skilled tradesman; a skill that is not learned overnight. A “well fitting” automobile is a series of adjustments and compromises.

**DO NOT PAINT** until after initial installation and not until you are completely satisfied with the fit. After this initial installation procedure to take on/off will be as easy as placing the convertible top up/down position.

**Included in your shipping carton attached to cardboard are parts which are necessary in the final assembly of the Hardtop.**

- Rear attachment hardware(pr)
- Side window moldings (pr)
- Side window rubber seal (pr)

## A Prior to placing the Hardtop on the car:

1. Open both doors with the windows down
2. Fold the convertible top into the normal down position and close the “water fall” panel
3. Clean the top of the windshield frame and rear deck area. Inspect the windshield rubber for excessive wear or damage.
4. Lubricate the bottom of the deck rubber of the Hardtop with a silicone lubricant or Vaseline (Caution: Keep lubricant from the primed surface to be painted).
5. Familiarize yourself with the working of the front and rear latching assemblies. The two front latches attach to the windshield and operate the same as the convertible latches. These are positioned at the factory and normally don't need adjusted.
6. The two rear fasteners hook to the supplied adaptor plates, which are bolted to the car near the convertible pivot point. The rear of the Hardtop is secured by turning the black plastic knobs clockwise until snug



**B. Attaching the Rear Adapter Plates:** The adapter plates (2 supplied) are the small stainless angles with a hole in each end.

1. Viewing the car from the outside, locate the two small plastic doors that hide the convertible top bow pivot points, one on each side of the car. (These spring-loaded plastic doors are located directly behind the rear door jam and are closed when the convertible top is in the down position.) Lift to open, look down into opening, and find a number of bolts that attach the convertible top to the inner panel of the car. The adapter plate will be bolted to car using the upper forward bolt

2. To avoid losing the bolt stuff a shop rag in the well. Remove bolt using  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or 13mm wrench. Position the adapter plate over the threaded hole with the adapter plate angle bent towards the inside of the car and the square end of the adapter plate towards the bottom. Re-insert the bolt through the adapter plate into the same threaded hole. Tighten the bolt keeping the other hole in the adapter plate in the upright position.



3. Repeat on other side. Raise and lower convertible top to make sure the adaptor plates do not interfere with the convertible top bows. Because of GM build tolerances the adapter plates may have to be slightly straightened until they do not interfere with the convertible top. The adaptor plates should remain permanently attached to the car when the Hardtop is not in use.

**C. Front latches:** Open the front latches and place Hardtop on the car (see photo next page)

1. Make sure that the two front locators engage their respective sockets on the windshield frame while lifting the **rear** of the Hardtop.
2. Make sure that the top is properly positioned, front and rear as well as centered on the car.
3. Gently engage and close the front latches.
4. Open the front latches halfway with the handles pointing towards the rear.



#### D. Rear latches:

1. Loosen black knob on "J" hook as much as possible without removing from Hardtop pad. Open spring-loaded plastic door on Corvette and insert "J" end of hook into the upper hole of the previously installed adapter plate. The toe of the "J" should face the outside of the car.



2. Turn the knobs clockwise to secure the rear of the Hardtop.
3. Push down and forward on the rear of the Hardtop while continuing to tighten knobs. **DO NOT** over tighten. Note: There must be a gap between the car body and the Hardtop to avoid paint abrasion and to relieve pressure when doors are closed.



4. Completely close the front latch handles pointing outside of the car.



- 5 Close each window and gently close each door to check for any interference between Hardtop, door or window.

Depending on the build tolerances of your car some or all of the following steps may be necessary to accomplish a satisfactory fit of your Hardtop. Check the various gap tolerances on all of the other panels on the car to ascertain what is acceptable.

### Front Latch Adjustment

The Hardtop can be adjusted forward, rearward, or side to side. While the Hardtop is on the car, open the front latches to the half way position to expose the mounting screws. Loosen both screws on each latch. (**Do not remove screws**). Push the Hardtop into the desired position. Once satisfied with the fit **retighten all attachment screws**. Relatch front and re-tighten rear latches.

1. If the rear gap appears to be too great the Hardtop may be adjusted too far forward. Adjust the front latches as described above. The rear gap can be increased or evened out from side to side by adjusting the tightness of the rear knobs. A gap no less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  " must be maintained.
2. The underside of the trailing edge of the Hardtop can be carefully sanded to obtain a perfect gap. This is a bonded joint and  $\frac{1}{2}$  " material can be removed.
3. On rare occasions the rubber weather striping may have to be shimmed or moved for a water tight seal.

## E. Rear Window Defogger:

1. Find the GM defogger electrical wire located on each side of car attached to convertible top bow, near the pivot point.
2. Cut the GM wire approximately 3" above the original connector towards window end of the wire. (upper end)
3. Crimp spade terminal to the cut window end of wire.(upper end)
4. Crimp bullet terminal of the Hardtop wiring loom to other end (lower end) of the GM wire.
5. Repeat on other side of car.
6. Attach and detach wiring by plugging spade terminals together.

## F. Prep and Painting

Use normal body shop procedures for prepping and sanding surface to be painted. The factory prime coat is water based Urethane, no sealer is necessary, and is compatible with all topcoats. We recommend dry sanding the primer verses wet sanding because of water absorption. **Caution: The factory primed surface must be top coated before being exposed to the weather.** Failure to topcoat over the prime coat can cause blisters or delamination and will void the warranty.

## G. Final Installation and Assembly

**We highly recommend finishing paint and polishing before installing the following items.**

## H. Rear Window Installation



Use normal window installation techniques and procedures for mounting the rear window. We recommend the dam method using a combination of butyl tape and urethane windshield installation adhesive. Clean all surfaces with alcohol before bonding. **Position window using spacers around perimeter. The outside surface of the window should be slightly below the surface of the hardtop.**

### Side Window Rubber Seal Installation

1. Close each window and gently close each door for any interference between hardtop, door or window.
2. After the Hardtop is adjusted front to rear and side to side, install side window rubber seals.
3. Clean the fiberglass bonding surface with alcohol.
4. Remove the red tape backing from the adhesive starting on the front of the weather seal.
5. Position the front portion of the side window seal into the windshield weather seal pocket and against door window for perfect fit.
6. A crisp dollar bill can be used to check for proper window seal. Open each door with the window in the up position. Place the bill between the window and the seal and close the door. The bill should drag but not rip while pulling it out. Proceed forward towards the windshield, and then proceed downward.
7. Compress rubber – Do not stretch.
8. Check the entire length of the seal.
9. The adhesive does not become a permanent bond for 48 hours to allow for repositioning.
10. Trim bottom of seal slightly long for a compression fit against body
11. After water test and road test for wind noise set adhesive with heat gun while pressing firmly into position



**Note!** Initially when raising the window it may follow the wrong track in the rubber until the rubber seal takes a permanent set from the window. Make sure that the rubber is properly lubricated with silicone based wax or Vaseline. To avoid this, push outward on the window while it is raising. When the car is not in use, always leave the windows in the up position then close the doors to facilitate the set.

## Side Window Molding

1. Install the side window drip guard molding by removing the tape protective film. Start at the rear corner aligning the edge guard and hardtop while moving forward and downward. Press firmly for permanent adhesion. Careful use of a heat gun or hair dryer will facilitate installation



### I. Maintenance of the Hardtop:

1. Periodically check the tightness of all the latches.
2. Side window rubber molding may be lubricated with a silicone base wax or Vaseline for easy winding of the windows. Similar lubrication may be used on the deck rubber seal if squeaking occurs.
3. If painted, keep surface waxed to preserve the gloss finish. On vinyl tops, clean periodically with a vinyl cleaner and coat with a vinyl top sealer.
4. If the rear window is Plexiglas caution should be exercised to prevent scratching. Don't wipe when dry. Clean with water and mild soap using a sponge or soft cloth. Dry with a chamois. Keep dirty rags away from the window. A Plastic wax such as "Mirror Glaze" can be used to wax the window.

**Warranty:** All Smooth Line Hardtops are warranted to be free from defects in material or workmanship and are warranted for one (1) year from date of purchase. Smooth Line will, at its discretion, repair or replace at its factory, without cost, any part that fails in service, upon our inspection, within the warranty period. The warranty does not cover freight, labor, failure of related components or failure resulting from alteration, misuse, accident damage, faulty installation, color coating, or faulty repair. For warranty service for a Hardtop purchased from a distributor you must make all arrangements through that distributor. If purchased directly from Smooth Line contact Smooth Line sales department. Warranty for all components must be supported by the proper registration documentation including the original shipping invoice. At no time are Smooth Line Hardtops returnable for credit or refund for any reason.

**Returned Goods:** Written authorization must be obtained from Smooth Line and the distributor before merchandise may be returned for warranty service. All merchandise must be properly packaged in non damaged condition. An itemized packing slip, showing invoice number and date, with full explanation of reason for return must be included. All returns must be sent freight prepaid. All costs relative to a return are not reimbursable.

**Freight Damage:** Smooth Line products are carefully packaged by professionals. Delivery in good condition is the responsibility of the carrier. All shipments are insured. Upon receiving your merchandise, while in the presents of the delivery driver, before signing, carefully inspect carton for damage or rough handling. If apparent, open package and inspect merchandise. If damaged, refuse shipment, have driver note damaged on bill of lading. Call Smooth Line after driver leaves with the shipment.

The above terms and conditions pertain to all orders and will be strictly applied. Please do not ask for exceptions.

## **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.

**WEAR SEAT BELTS AT ALL TIMES.**