

RCI 05+ TOYOTA TACOMA ENGINE SKID PLATE INSTALLATION GUIDE

This install guide is applicable to our 05+ Tacoma Engine Skid Plate ONLY



TOOLS REQUIRED:

Description
3/8" or 1/2" Socket Wrench and Socket Set
Socket Wrench Extension Set

INCLUDED HARDWARE:

Item	Description	QTY
H1.	M8 x 1.25 x 40MM Hex Bolt	2 ea.
H2.	5/16" Washer	2 ea.
H3.	3/8" x 1/2" Nylon Spacer	2 ea.
H4.	M8 x 1.25 x 25mm Button Head Bolt (pre-installed on skid)	2 ea.
H5.	1/4" Washer (pre-installed on skid)	2 ea.
H6.	M8 Steel U-nut (pre-installed on skid)	2 ea.

INCLUDED COMPONENTS:

Item	Description	QTY
C1.	Tacoma Engine Skid Plate	1 ea.
C2.	Oil Filter Access Door (pre-installed on skid)	1 ea.

INSTALLATION STEPS:

- 1) Begin by unpacking and removing all components and hardware. Please verify that all hardware, components, and mounting components are present. Please reference your original order invoice and verify all items are accounted for.
- 2) Remove OEM Toyota installed skid plate present under the engine and radiator. These are easily removed with four bolts per plate (one on all corners). In later year models, the forward most plate is also secured with two flange hooks at the very front. The plate will need to be hinged forward and lifted off. Once the plates have been removed, the factory mounting bars will need to be removed as well. These mounting bars run forward and back on the vehicle. The mounting points and hooks for the OEM skid are on these brackets as well. Retain the large OEM hardened steel hex bolts for use with your new RCI Engine Skid plate.
 - a. **PLEASE NOTE:** The OEM skid plates usually consist of two separate plates. The secondary plate sitting between the front suspension crossmembers and the primary plate between the front bumper and the front crossmember of the front suspension.
 - i. Some trim levels of the Tacoma may be missing the secondary plate from the factory. In most SR trims, there are no installed skid plates.
- 3) Align the 90-degree flange on the Tacoma Engine Skid Plate(C1) with the front of the radiator support crossmember on the truck. Using the OEM hardened steel hex bolts, hand thread one in the forward two mounting holes of the plate. These bolts should thread into the location that the OEM brackets occupied. Leave the bolts loose.
- 4) Hinge the rear most portion of the plate up to the rear crossmember of the front suspension. Temporarily hand thread one M8x1.25x40mm Hex Bolt(H1) and 5/16" Washer(H2) through the plate and into the newly aligned mounting hole on the vehicle frame. Thread the bolt far enough in to support the weight of the skid plate temporarily.
- 5) Collect the second M8 Hex Bolt(H1), 5/16" Washer(H2), and the 3/8" Nylon Spacer(H3). Insert the M8 bolt and washer through the second rear most mounting location on the skid plate and place the 3/8" spacer on the bolt, between the skid plate and the vehicle frame. Thread the bolt far enough that the plate is supported.
 - a. Remove the bolt from step 4 and repeat step 5. Both rear skid plate bolts should have a spacer between the skid plate and the vehicle frame.
 - i. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you are installing the RCI Transmission skid plate simultaneously, the mounting order should be as follows: **Ground>Engine Skid Plate>Transmission Skid Plate>3/8" Nylon Spacer>Vehicle frame.**

- 6) While supporting the Tacoma Engine Skid Plate(C1) hand thread all bolts installed in steps 3-5 to snug but **NOT** tightened. The tube mounts of the skid plate should now be aligned with the mounting points on the vehicle frame. Using the socket extension (no wrench) and the proper socket, apply an OEM hardened steel hex bolt to the socket and hand thread the bolt in the tube support. Snug with socket extension only, do **NOT** attach the socket wrench.
- 7) With all mounting hardware in place, begin by tightening the forward and rear bolts first. Tighten to **30ft/lbs**. Tighten the tube support bolts last. Tighten to **30ft/lbs**.
- 8) Installation of your new RCI 05+ Toyota Tacoma Engine Skid Plate is now complete!



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