1984–Early 1986 C4 Corvette Roof Panel Installation Instructions 85

Important Information Before Installation

Chevrolet technicians individually adjusted every Corvette roof panel to fit its specific vehicle as it left the assembly line. The same attention to detail is necessary when installing your replacement roof panel.

Proper installation and adjustment are essential to prevent premature lens failure, ensure a proper weather seal, and provide years of enjoyment from your new roof.

Take your time during installation. Never force the roof panel into position or use the mounting hardware to pull an improperly aligned roof into place.

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1. Tools Required

Have the following tools available before beginning:

- Phillips-head screwdriver
- Flat-head screwdriver
- 5/16-inch socket
- T30 Torx socket
- T40 Torx socket
- 1 1/8-inch wrench (required for 1984–Early 1986 models)

Note: A thin 1 1/8-inch wrench is recommended for easier access to the front locating cones. Our special wrench is available under SKU #85WRENCH.

2. Getting Started

1. Carefully unpack your new roof panel. Leave the protective film in place during installation.
2. Place the roof upside down on a clean, soft blanket or padded surface to protect the lens from scratches.
3. Loosen the rear locating brackets by loosening the four outer rear locating bracket bolts. Do not remove the bolts. The brackets must be loose enough to allow adjustment.



4. Loosen the front mounting hardware:
    - **1984–Early 1986:** Loosen the front locating cones using a 1 1/8-inch wrench.





Make sure the mounting hardware is loose enough to allow the roof panel to move into its proper position during installation.

3. 1984–Early 1986 Roof Installation

Step 1 – Remove the Upper Windshield Trim Panel

Working from inside the vehicle, remove the five Phillips-head screws securing the underside of the upper windshield trim panel.

There is one screw behind the rearview mirror and four additional screws along the outer portion of the trim panel.

If your rearview mirror has electrical wiring, allow it to hang carefully. Do not pull on or strain the wiring.

Step 2 – Remove the Upper Trim Covers

Remove the screws securing the upper trim covers and carefully remove the covers.

This will expose the sun visor mounting posts and retaining nuts.



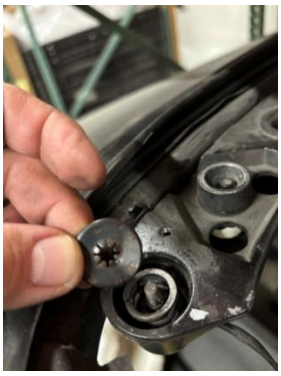
Step 3 – Remove the Sun Visors

Using a 5/16-inch socket, remove the sun visor retaining nuts.



IMPORTANT: Be careful not to lose the spring clips located underneath the retaining nuts. These clips should remain in position during removal.

If a spring clip needs to be removed, use a flat-head screwdriver to carefully pry it off.



WARNING: The sun visor mounting posts are spring-loaded. When removing a spring clip, cover it with your free hand to prevent it from flying off under spring pressure.

Step 4 – Lower the Sun Visors and Trim Panel

Rotate each sun visor while gently pulling downward until the visor posts disengage from their mounting brackets.

Allow the sun visors, rearview mirror, and upper trim panel to hang freely out of the way. Be careful not to damage any wiring or interior components.



Step 5 – Position the New Roof Panel

Carefully place the new roof panel onto the vehicle.

Before attempting to install any mounting bolts, check the following:

- The rear portions of both roof side weatherstrips are properly positioned.
- The weatherstrips are not twisted, folded, or bunched up.
- The rear locating brackets and front mounting hardware are loose enough to allow adjustment.
- The roof panel is sitting naturally in position.

Do not force the roof panel into place. If it does not sit properly, check the weatherstrips and mounting hardware before proceeding.

Step 6 – Secure the Rear Mounting Hardware

Begin by tightening the two center rear mounting bolts.

Next, tighten the four outer rear mounting bolts.

All six rear mounting bolts should now be securely tightened.

Adjustment Tip: Before tightening the four outer bolts, gently push down on the roof panel to make small adjustments to its overall height. This helps achieve proper alignment between the roof and the vehicle.

Step 7 – Install the Front Mounting Bolts

Align the front mounting bolts with the front locating cones.

Carefully start the front mounting bolts, making sure the locating cones are centered in their receivers.

You may need to reach inside the vehicle and gently reposition the locating cone assemblies to help align the bolts.

Do not cross-thread or force the bolts.

Step 8 – Tighten the Front Locating Cones

Once the front mounting bolts are properly started and aligned, tighten the front locating cones using your 1 1/8-inch wrench. This secures the front locating plate assemblies.

Important: If you do not have the thin 1 1/8-inch wrench shown in the Getting Started section, you may need to back the front mounting bolts out slightly to create enough clearance for a standard open-end wrench between the roof panel and the upper windshield frame.

After tightening, double-check that the locating cone assemblies have not shifted from their centered positions.

Step 9 – Check and Adjust Front Roof Pressure

Proper front roof pressure is extremely important.

Loosen the front mounting bolts and then carefully retighten them while watching the point where the front edge of the roof lens contacts the windshield weatherstrip.

As the bolts are tightened, the front edge of the lens should make even contact with the windshield weatherstrip, applying approximately **1/8 inch of compression**.

- **Too much pressure:** Can cause excessive stress on the lens, potentially resulting in warping, cracking, or other damage.
- **Too little pressure:** Can allow air or water leaks.

Take your time with this adjustment. The goal is even contact across the front of the roof without excessive pressure.

Step 10 – Adjust Front Roof Height

If the front of the roof panel requires additional height adjustment, loosen the four T40 bolts securing the front mounting brackets to the windshield frame.



The brackets can be adjusted as follows:

- **Move the brackets UP** to raise the roof panel.
- **Move the brackets DOWN** to lower the roof panel.

Once the desired position is achieved, retighten all four T40 bolts.

Adjustment Tip: Before loosening the brackets, make an index mark showing their original position. This provides a reference point if you need to return to the original setting.

Recheck the front roof fitment and weatherstrip contact after making any adjustments.

4. Final Inspection and Reassembly

Before reinstalling the interior trim components, verify the following:

- All six rear mounting bolts are secure.
- Both front mounting assemblies are properly aligned and tightened.
- The roof panel sits evenly against the vehicle.
- The front lens makes even contact with the windshield weatherstrip.
- The weatherstrips are not folded, twisted, or bunched up.
- The roof panel is not under excessive mounting pressure.

Once all adjustments are complete, reinstall the upper windshield trim panel, sun visors, retaining clips, and trim covers.

Make sure all interior components are properly secured.

5. Troubleshooting

Problem: The roof panel is difficult to position or install.

Check the following:

- The windshield weatherstripping or rear halo weatherstripping may be poor quality, worn, damaged, or improperly installed.
- Vehicle may have been in an accident. X Measure across top of car to two corresponding points to verify squareness of chassis.

Problem: The front mounting bolts will not start.

Check the following:

- Make sure the front mounting plates are loose enough to move freely.
- Poor quality weatherstrips will not compress.
- Check that the mounting plates are not contacting or hanging up on surrounding components.
- Make sure the mounting bolts are properly aligned before tightening.
- Rear of roof is not tightened.

Problem: The rear mounting bolts will not start.

Check the following:

- Make sure the rear ends of both roof side weatherstrips are not folded or bunched up.
- Verify that the rear tail of each side weatherstrip overlaps the vehicle's rear halo weatherstrip properly.
- Check that the rear locating brackets are loose enough to allow alignment.

6. Important Installation Reminder

Every C4 Corvette roof opening can have slight variations due to vehicle-specific factory adjustments, weatherstrip condition, and previous repairs.

Proper roof installation requires patience and careful adjustment. If you are uncomfortable performing these installation and adjustment procedures, we recommend seeking assistance from a Chevrolet dealership or an authorized Melrose roof distributor.

*** Care & Maintenance-** Treat your new roof as you would the rest of your vehicle's exterior. Mild soap and water with a soft cloth work fine for normal cleaning. We DO NOT recommend paper towels! For protection, dedicated plastic cleaners/ conditioners or non-abrasive liquid wax may be applied with a clean microfiber towel.

***Disclaimer-** You must follow the instructions according to General Motors. In no event shall the manufacturer be liable for any direct, indirect, punitive, incidental, special consequential damages, to property or life, whatsoever arising out of or connected with the negligent use or misuse of product.
Thank you for choosing Melrose T-Top International. We appreciate your business and hope you enjoy your new Corvette roof panel!

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