



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

6574
4" HANGER KIT
97-03 DODGE DAKOTA

Congratulations! You were selective enough to choose a BELL TECH PRODUCT. We have spent many hours developing our line of products so that you will receive maximum performance with minimum difficulty during installation.

- Note:** Confirm that all of the hardware listed in the parts list is in the kit. **Do not** begin installation if any part is missing. Read the instructions thoroughly before beginning this installation.
- Warning:** **DO NOT** work under a vehicle supported by only a jack. Place support stands securely under the vehicle in the manufacturer's specified locations unless otherwise instructed.
- Warning:** **DO NOT** drive vehicle until all work has been completed and checked. Torque all hardware to values specified.
- Reminder:** Proper use of safety equipment and eye/face/hand protection is absolutely necessary when using these tools to perform procedures!
- Note:** It is very helpful to have an assistant available during installation.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS:

- Properly rated floor jack, support stands, and wheel chocks
- Combination wrench set
- Ratcheting socket wrench and socket set
- Safety Glasses

! Note: It is very helpful to have an assistant available during installation.

SAFETY REMINDER: PROPER USAGE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND EYE/FACE/HAND PROTECTION IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY WHEN USING THESE TOOLS TO PERFORM PROCEDURES

During installation, if both leaf spring packs are unbolted from the chassis simultaneously, the rear axle leaf spring assembly can become awkward to maintain in relation to the vehicle chassis. Therefore, **WE RECOMMEND** that only one side of the vehicle should be modified at a time.

KIT INSTALLATION

1. Open the hardware kit and remove all of the contents. Refer to the part list (Page 3) to verify that all parts are present.
2. Place the vehicle on a level solid surface. We recommend concrete or asphalt. Installation may be eased by removal of the bed. If the bed is too removed, be sure to plug any open fuel lines and or vents. As there may be some grinding and drilling during the hanger installation, this will reduce the possibility of sparks or chips entering the fuel system. Be sure to disconnect all wiring harnesses and ground straps.
3. Block the front wheels and raise the rear of the vehicle using a hydraulic floor jack rated for this load under the center axle. (PHOTO 1)

4. Install jack stands rated for this load on both sides of the vehicle so that they support the chassis just forward of the leaf spring pack forward hanger. (PHOTO 2)
5. Remove the rear wheels.
6. Raise the floor jack until it is just touching the rear axle. Raise the jack another 1/8" – 1/4" to remove as much tension as possible from the leaf spring. Remove the forward leaf spring eyebolt. (PHOTO 3) Support the spring and allow it to come clear of the spring hanger. (PHOTO 4) **CAUTION: Spring may still be under tension, use caution when removing the spring eyebolt.** In the same manner, remove the rear shackle eyebolt. (PHOTO 5) Lower the floor jack so that the shackle drops clear of the stock spring hanger. (PHOTO 6) **CAUTION:** Do not lower the rear axle so as to overextend or damage brake lines and components.
7. Using a cutting wheel, cut a notch through each hanger rivet. (PHOTO 7) **CAUTION: DO NOT** cut through the hanger into the vehicle chassis. If a cutting wheel is unavailable, drill a 1/16" pilot hole in the center of each rivet, then drill a 3/8" hole. Either method will ease rivet head removal. Chisel the heads off of each rivet. (PHOTO 8) Punch the rivets through the frame. (PHOTO 9) Some cleanup of the rivet holes may be necessary to allow the new hardware to fit without thread damage. Use a round file or die grinder with suitable bit (PHOTO 10) for this purpose. **CAUTION: Always wear eye protection when using power tools.**
8. Remove the factory bump stop from the frame rail. (PHOTO 11) Drill a 3/8" hole directly above the axle tube and install the kit supplied urethane bump stop. (PHOTOS 12 & 13)
9. Remove the passenger side emergency cable from the chassis bracket by first completely removing the adjuster nut located just above the factory driver's side front spring hanger. (PHOTO 14) Compress the three spring tabs on the emergency brake cable and slide the cable out of the chassis bracket. Install the kit supplied emergency cable bracket using the 1/2" hardware. (PHOTO 15) Re-install the emergency cable through the upper mounting hole and reassemble the emergency brake cable system. (PHOTO 16) **IMPORTANT: The emergency brake system must be re-adjusted to factory specifications after the installation of this kit. Failure to do so may cause damage to the emergency brake system.**
10. Install the Belltech rear spring hanger using the 1/2" hardware supplied in the kit, inserting through the former rivet holes. (PHOTO 17) Torque the 1/2" hanger mounting bolts to 123-128 ft. **NOTE:** This kit contains a right and left side rear spring hanger. The rear hangers should be mounted with the oblong hole towards the rear of the vehicle. Install the Belltech front spring hanger onto the front spring eye using the stock spring eyebolt. Make sure the nut is secure, but **do not** tighten completely at this time. **IMPORTANT:** Make sure the bolt is inserted so that the nut is on the outside of the front spring hanger. (PHOTO 18) **NOTE:** The front hangers should be mounted with the spring eyebolt hole offset towards the rear of the vehicle.
11. Raise the rear axle with a floor jack and install the front hanger 1/2" hardware. (PHOTO 19) Torque the 1/2" hanger mounting bolts to 123-128 ft/lbs.
12. Continue raising the axle until the rear spring shackle bolt can be inserted through the Belltech rear hanger. Once again, make sure the shackle bolt is secure, but do not tighten completely at this time.
13. Repeat steps 5 through 9 as necessary for the remaining side of the vehicle.
14. Lower the floor jack to remove tension from the leaf springs. Working with one side at a time, loosen and remove the U-bolt nuts. (PHOTO 21) Remove the U-bolt plates and U-bolts.

15. Raise the floor jack to lift the axle off the leaf spring pack to allow access to the spring center bolt. (PHOTO 22)
16. Place one of the supplied 3/8" lock nuts onto the exposed threads of the spring center bolt and tighten with a hand wrench. (PHOTO 23) **We DO NOT RECOMMEND using an impact wrench.**
17. Place the 4° pinion shim onto the leaf spring over the spring center bolt. The thickest portion of the shim must be to the rear of the vehicle. (PHOTO 24)
18. Lower the floor jack to set the axle tube back down onto the leaf spring, making sure the end of the spring center bolt seats into the hole in the axle perch.
19. Re-install U-bolts, plate and hardware. (PHOTO 25) Torque U-bolts to 65-80 Ft. Lbs.
20. Repeat steps 11 through 16 as necessary for the remaining side of the vehicle.
21. Trucks with one-piece drive shafts proceed to Step 21.
22. Remove the two bolts that secure the carrier bearing to the carrier bearing cross member. (PHOTO 26) Insert the kit supplied spacer between the cross member and the carrier bearing housing. (PHOTO 27) Re-install the stock bolts and torque to factory specifications.
23. After re-checking that all hangers to chassis hardware are tightened as specified, re-install rear wheels and lower the vehicle to the ground.
24. Torque all leaf spring eye bolts to 123-128 ft/lbs. (PHOTOS 28 & 29)
25. After re-installation of the bed the project is completed.

PART LIST FOR 6574 HANGER KIT

Part No.	Description	Qty.
6574-030	Front Spring Hanger, L.H.	1
6574-040	Front Spring Hanger, R.H.	1
6574-010	Rear Spring Hanger, L.H.	1
6574-020	Rear Spring Hanger, R.H.	1
4900-001	Bump Stop	2
110408	1/2"-20 x 1-1/4" Grade 8 CS ZP	17
110402	1/2"-20 GRC LN	17
110660	1/2" A325 FW	38
6574-009	E-Brake Cable Bracket	1
4977-001	4° Pinion Shim	2
6574-011	Center Carrier Bearing Spacer	1
110252	Spring Center Bolt 3/8"-24 x 5	2
110257	Coupling Nut 3/8" -24 x 1-1/8"	2







