

SWITCHBLADE

SERIES RETRACTABLE TRUCK BED COVERS

DODGE RAM INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



PACE | EDWARDS®

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SWD2-1808

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

TOOLS REQUIRED FOR ASSEMBLY:

7/16" Wrench or Socket
#2 Phillips Screwdriver

Tape Measure
Side Cut or Needle Nose Pliers

Utility Knife

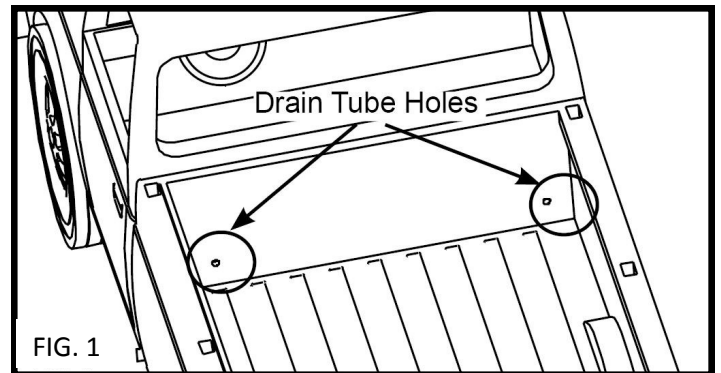
Note: There should be no drilling into the truck body needed on most standard or full-size trucks.

BEFORE YOU START:

Read the instructions carefully before you start. These instructions are written for one-person installation. We have briefly noted where having an extra person's assistance can make installation easier.

DRAIN HOLE LOCATIONS:

The Switchblade is designed to carry rainwater from the cover into the canister and then out through the drains. Most truck models have standard OE drain holes or plastic/rubber access ports in the front of the truck bed. Check to make sure your truck has the OE drain holes so that drilling into the sheet metal is not required. If drilling is necessary, be sure to check the underside of the truck bed for the best location. The holes should be located near the side and as far forward as possible. Use a drill bit suitable for sheet metal (such as a taper drill or step drill). Drill drain tube clearance holes at 3/4" (19mm). This will need to be done before installing the cover.



STEP 1: REMOVE PACKAGING PLYWOOD & HARDWARE

A complete unit will consist of one canister box (marked box 1 of 2) and one rail box (marked box 2 of 2). Remove the Top Cover, Canister, Clamp Pack, Hardware Pack and Drain Tubes from the canister box. Remove the rails from the rail box (see caution below). Perform a quick inventory of the packaging contents to insure all parts are there.

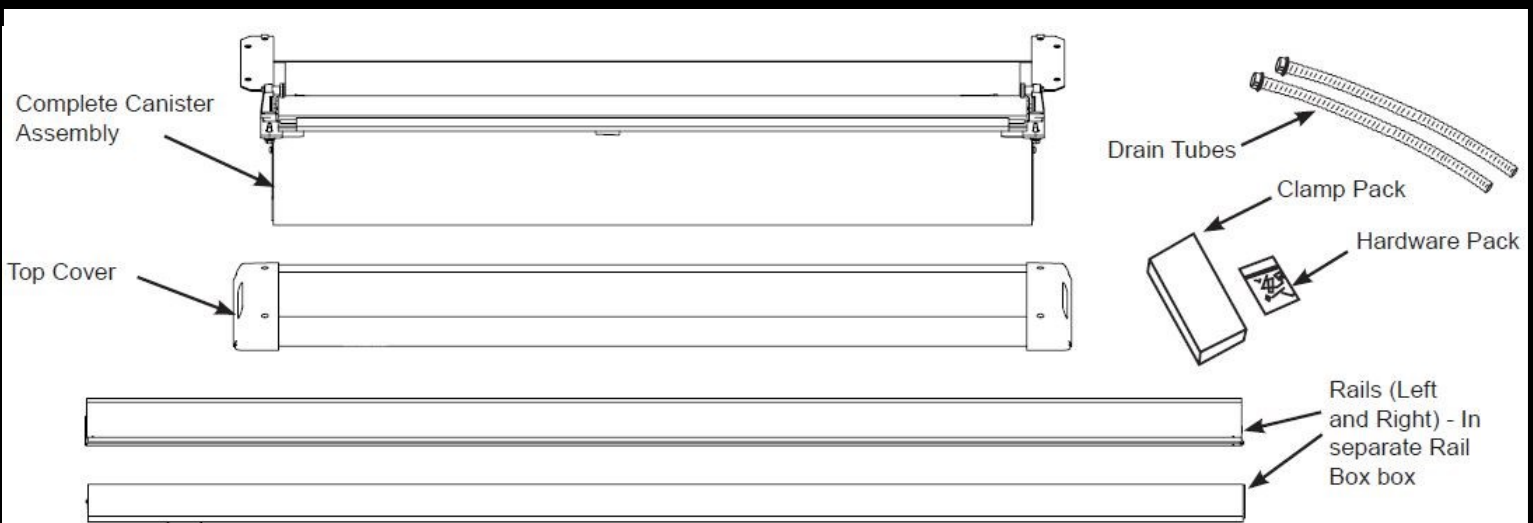
DO NOT USE A KNIFE TO OPEN THE RAIL BOX!

CAUTION!

OPEN THE RAIL BOX ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE BOX, THEN LIFT THE RAILS OUT TO AVOID SCRATCHING THE SURFACE OF THE RAILS ON THE PACKAGE STAPLES!

CAUTION!

PACKAGING CONTENTS

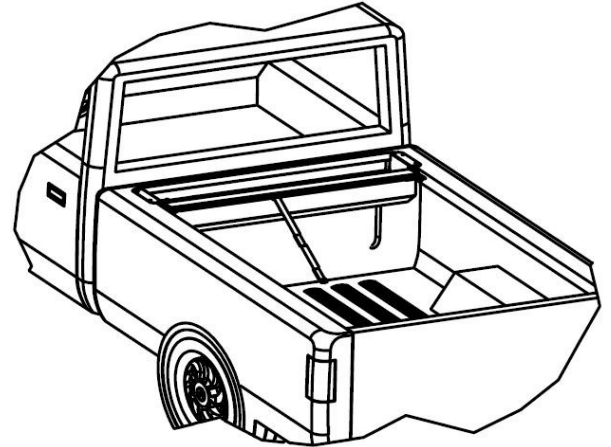


STEP 2: POSITIONING THE CANISTER

Use the Pull-strap and one canister flange to lift and steady the unit. Wrap the Pull-strap around the canister a couple of times and double it up in your hand.

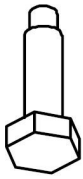


Place the Canister in the truck bed just behind the cab and center it from side to side. Ensuring that the canister is centered in the bed will help assemble the rails to the canister in the next step.



STEP 3: INSTALLING RAILS

HARDWARE USED:



1/4-20 x 1"
RAILBOLT x2



1/4" LOCK WASHER x2



1/4" FLAT WASHER x2

Remove the protective paper from the foam on the underside of the Rail Flanges. This is for packaging purposes only. The rails shipped with plastic shims pre-installed to the Rail Brackets for proper spacing. Ensure those shims are in place.

Next identify the left and right side rails. The plastic rail endcap should be towards the tailgate while the rail flange and foam, shims and brackets towards the outside of the truck bed. Install the rails by first guiding Handle Assembly into the open channel of the rail and then sliding the rail against the blanket guide on the canister. Attach the rail to the canister using the rail bolt, lock washer and flat washer through the blanket guide and into the bottom of the rail.

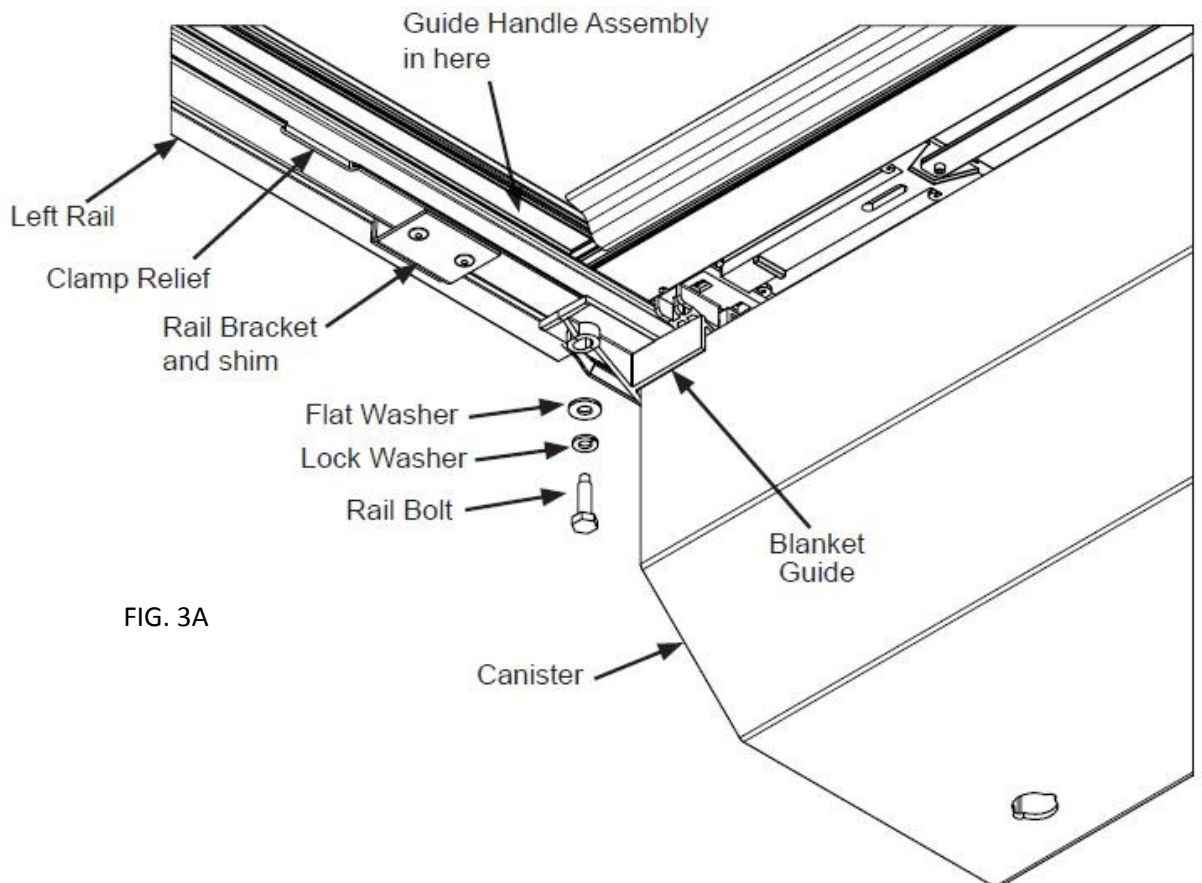


FIG. 3A

STEP 4: INSTALLING THE CLAMPS

Secure the rails to the truck bed by installing two clamp assemblies per rail. Slide the Clamp Grip onto the Rail at the Clamp Relief and then slide it towards the Rail Bracket and Shim (Fig 4D and 4E). Then assemble the rest of the clamp parts as shown below (Fig 4C).

Before tightening the rail clamps, set the Rail End Caps about 1/16" from the tailgate. This space will allow for overstroke when closing the tailgate. Once everything is square, tighten the Rail clamps completely but **do NOT tighten over 120 inch-pounds!** Firmly shut the tailgate with the cover in the closed position and check to make sure the "Tailgate Ajar" warning is not active. If the warning is active and more than reasonable force is necessary to fully shut the tailgate, more clearance may be necessary at the Rail End Caps.

Finally, check for proper spacing by measuring between the rails at the canister and the tailgate end of the rails (Fig 4A). The measurement should be equal to less than those in Fig 4B. The Rail Brackets and Shims have been pre-installed to achieve the proper Between the Rail dimensions (BR) when placed on an average factory truck bed. However, not all truck beds are average dimensionally and some have optional plastic caps or over the rail spray-in bedliners.

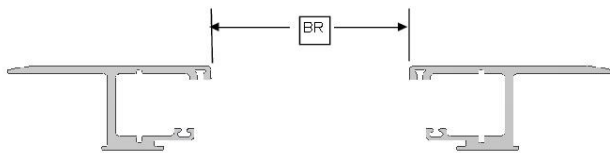


FIG. 4A

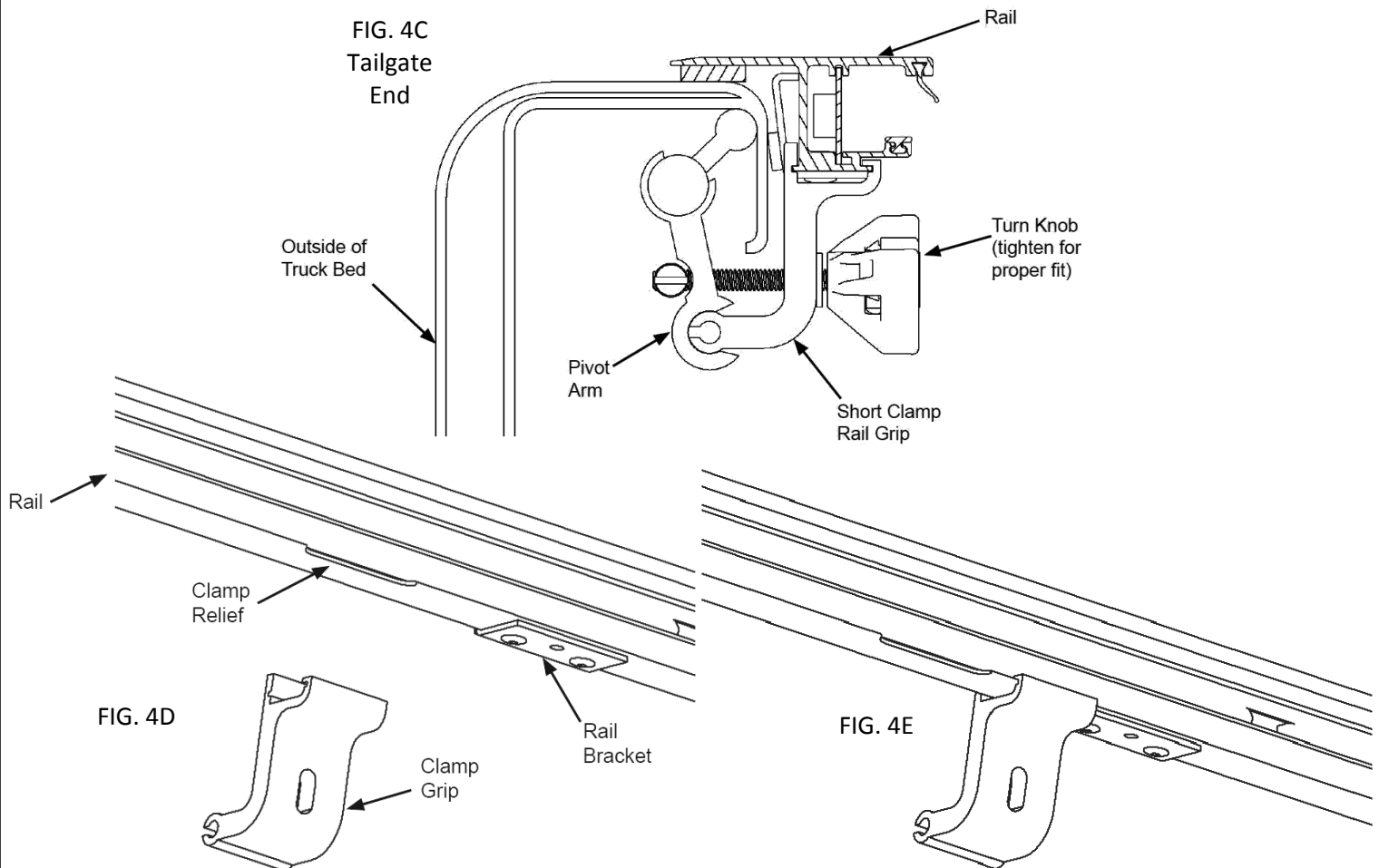
Part number is on the serial number label in the upper-left corner of the canister (looking from tailgate).

PART NUMBER	BETWEEN THE RAILS (BR)
SM and SW 2124	58 3/16
SM and SW 2125	58 3/16

FIG. 4B

Another way to ensure proper fit is to check the side to side play of the handle assembly at the canister and at the tailgate end of the rails. There should be, at minimum, enough play to allow the cover to move freely with no drag and at a maximum 1/8" per side. More than 1/8" per side may result in the cover opening unintentionally and in severe cases it may fall between the rail tracks and damage the cover. **There are shims on the brackets that can be removed if the unit is too tight and shims in the hardware pack that can be added if too loose.**

FIG. 4C
Tailgate
End



STEP 5: ATTACH THE PULL-STRAP

Attach your pull-strap to either of the clamps (left or right side) at the tailgate end of the rails by looping it through the assembly and pressing the two Hook and loop fastener strips together. This will ensure the pull-strap will always be within easy reach when trying to close the cover.

STEP 6: INSTALLING THE KICKSTANDS

Install the kickstands at the tailgate ends of the rails (FIG. 6A). Loosely fasten the kickstand assembly to the clamp grip, on the side of the grip where the pivot foot will land on the flattest section of the bed wall. Rotate the assembly so that the kickstand will push as squarely as possible against the bed wall (FIG. 6B), then tighten the wing nut. If the assembly is not positioned squarely against the bed wall, the assembly will rotate out of position, or the foot or knob can dislodge when the rail is flexed or loaded (FIG. 6C).

Run the adjusting bolt inward toward the bed wall, putting some pressure on the foot, then continue running the bolt inward using the knob until the rail is visually level. The adjusting bolt can be removed and the base flipped 180 degrees to adjust for varying clearance with the bed wall (FIG. 6D). Verify the BTR dimension after the rails are leveled (STEP 4, FIG 4A & 4B).

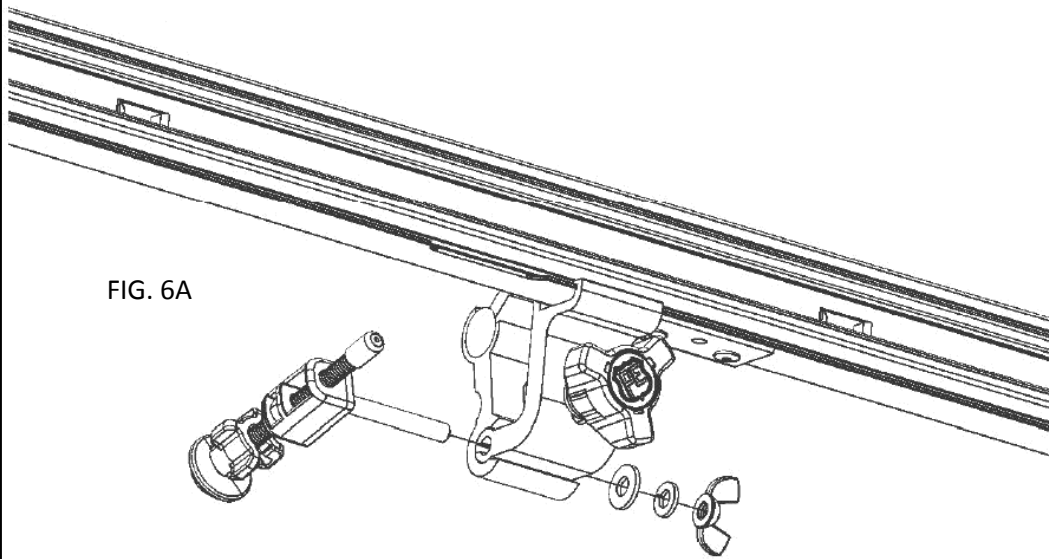


FIG. 6A

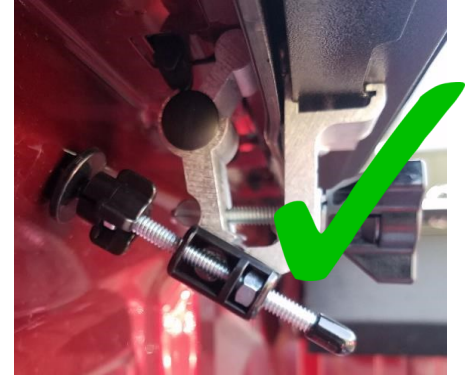
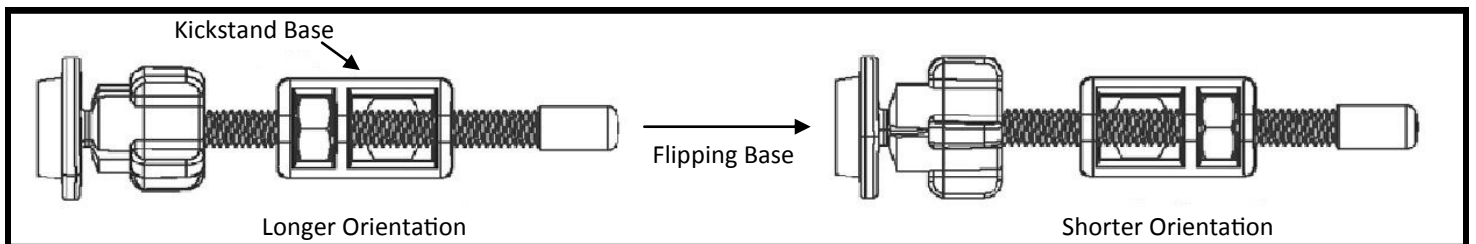


FIG. 6B



FIG. 6C

FIG. 6D



STEP 7: LUBRICATING & PLACING THE SWEEP SEALS

Locate the sweep seals (rubber weather strips) on the rails. Open the provided 303 brand protectant sponge pack (find it adhered to the underside of the top cover lid) and wipe the underside of the sweep seal and the top of the wear strip on each rail.

Extend the cover to the tailgate. Use an Allen Wrench if needed to carefully draw out the sweep seal (seal should be angled outward toward the cover—not rolling in toward the bed rail). (Fig 7A)

Proper care and placement of the sweep seal will ensure smooth operation of the cover. Alcohol, petroleum or silicone based cleaners such as Armor-All® should be avoided and ARE NOT recommended for our covers.

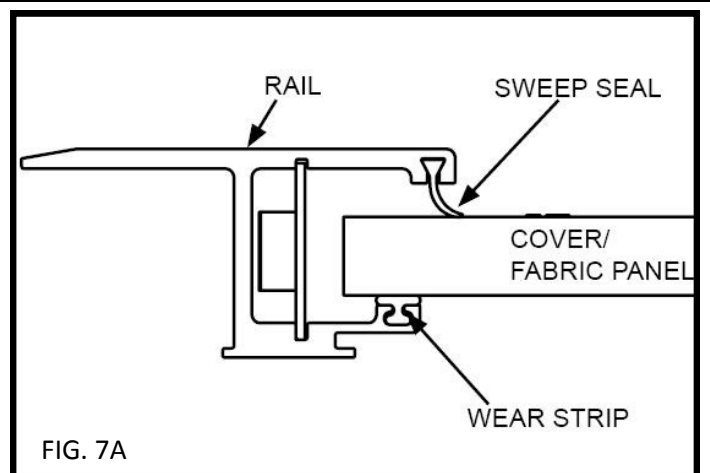


FIG. 7A

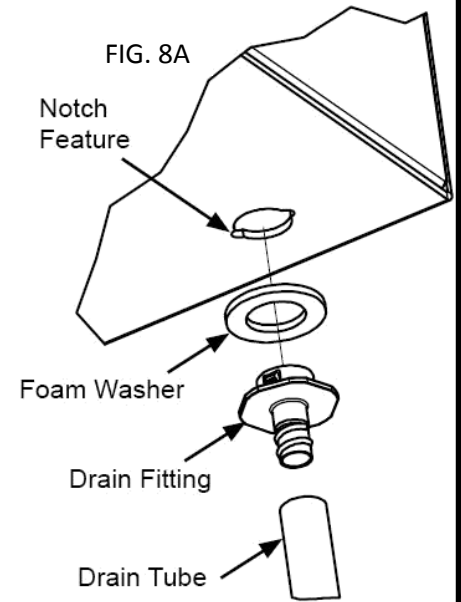
STEP 8: INSTALLING THE DRAIN TUBES

First, ensure that the Foam Washer is in place on the Drain Fitting as this washer will help prevent water leakage. Next, test fit the drain tube to determine the length you want to trim it. Always caution on the long side. Trim the end that will be inserted through the truck bed using the wire cutters or a utility knife.

With the cover opened, insert the drain tube fittings into the pre-drilled holes on the underside of the canister by pushing them in place from under the canister. Drain Fitting should click into place.

Place the other end of the drain tube through the plastic/rubber access port or through the pre-drilled holes in the floor or the front wall of the truck bed. If routing through the front wall, ensure that the drain tubes are inserted and directed down so the water flows out of the truck bed.

To remove the drain tubes reach under the canister, grab the drain tube fitting and turn it while applying light downward pressure. When the retaining tabs align with the notches in the bottom of the canister the Drain Tube and Fitting will drop out.



STEP 9: ATTACHING TOP COVER & VELCRO TO PULL-STRAP

HARDWARE USED:



4" Velcro Strip



Black Top Cover
Screw x4

Place the Top Cover on the canister and install with the four black Top Cover screws through the top cover endcaps and into the panel nuts on the canister flanges.

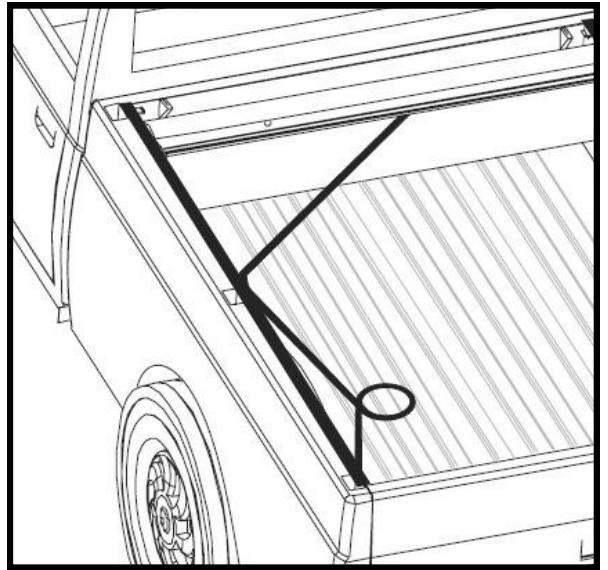
Retract the cover to the fully open position.

Attach the 4" Hook and loop fastener Strip onto the Hook and loop fastener already attached to the pull-strap.

Pull the pull-strap over to the driver or passenger side rail and remove the tape from the 4" Hook and loop fastener Strip.

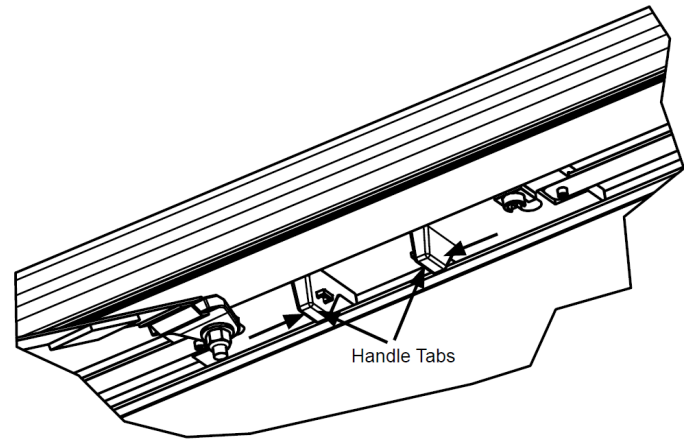
Then apply the Hook and loop fastener Strip onto the underside of the rail at your desired position.

This will hold the pull-strap off of the floor and out of the way when cargo is being stored in the truck bed.



OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. To open the cover, open your tailgate and squeeze (pinch) together the Handle Tabs in the center on the underside of the cover. This retracts the latches and the cover is free to roll open into the canister.
2. To close the cover, pull on the strap to draw it back toward the tailgate. When it is within easy reach, grasp the handle by the hand grip and pull the cover to the latching position against the tailgate.



HELPFUL MAINTENANCE HINTS

To help keep the SWITCHBLADE Series tonneau cover looking it's best, we recommend washing it the same as caring for your truck finish. However, you should not wax your cover. Using a citrus-based vinyl cleaner and protectant such as Pace Edwards' UV Protectant (or 303 brand protectant) will keep your cover looking like new.

To assure quiet, smooth operation, periodically apply a generous amount of the same Pace-Edwards' UV Protectant (or 303 brand protectant) to a rag. Wipe out the inside of the rails, the underside of the sweep seals, and the top of the wear strips. Repeat as needed until these components are cleaned of debris and well lubricated.

Ensure proper placement of the sweep seal as shown in Step 7. Re-apply protectant/lubricant if the cover begins squeaking or sticking during use. (Fig H1).

Alcohol, petroleum or silicon based cleaners such as Armor-All® should be avoided and ARE NOT recommended for our covers.

It is important to open and close the cover regularly. The spring that operates the cover is self-lubricating and regular use assures that it stays in proper working condition.

Periodically remove the Top Cover and clean out the inside of the canister.

Drain tubes may become clogged overtime and should be removed and cleaned. To remove the Drain Tubes reach under the canister, grab the Drain Tube Fitting and turn it while applying light downward pressure. When the retaining tabs align with notches in the bottom of the canister the Drain Tube and Fitting will drop out.

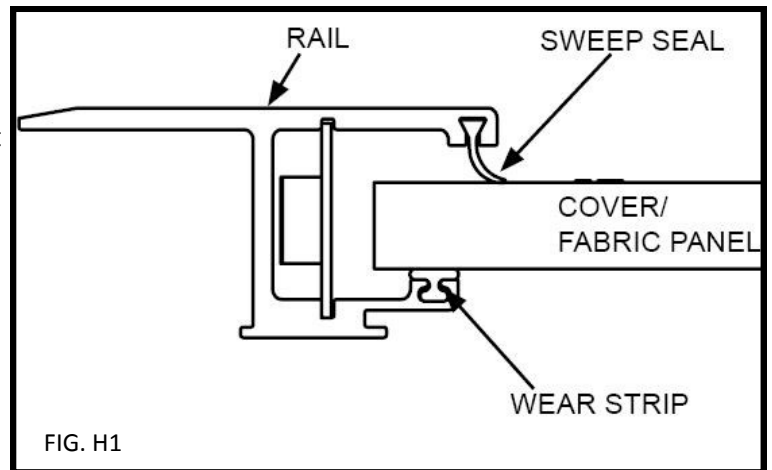


FIG. H1

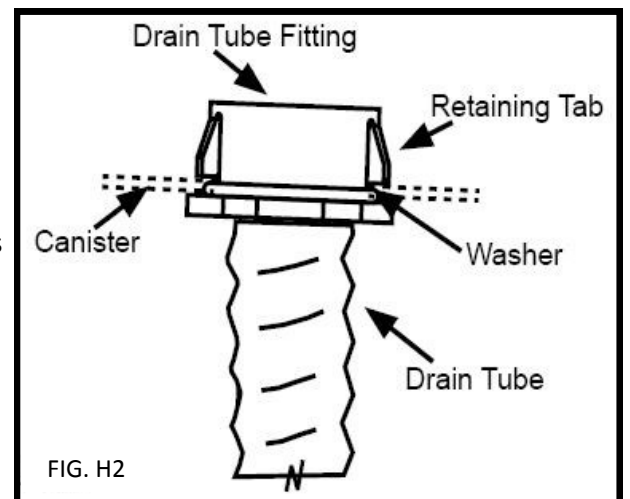


FIG. H2