



# STEP BOARD KIT #27-1345 INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

APPLICATION: 2002-UP FORD EXPLORER  
2002- UP MERCURY MOUNTAINEER

## AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS, INC.

**CAUTION:**  
BEFORE BEGINNING  
THIS INSTALLATION  
PROCEDURE,  
READ THOUGH  
INSTRUCTIONS  
CAREFULLY AND

		HARDWARE KIT	
16	SQUARE HEAD BOLTS	6	EXTRUDED U-NUTS
40	NYLOCK NUTS	62	SAE WASHER
6	5/16 X 1.00" HEX HEAD BOLTS	24	5/16 X .75" HEX HEAD BOLT
2	TEK SCREW	2	FRONT BRACKET
2	FRONT SUPPORT BRACKET	6	CENTER/REAR BRACKET
6	SUPPORT BRACKET		

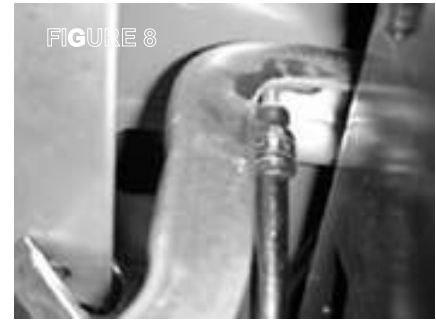
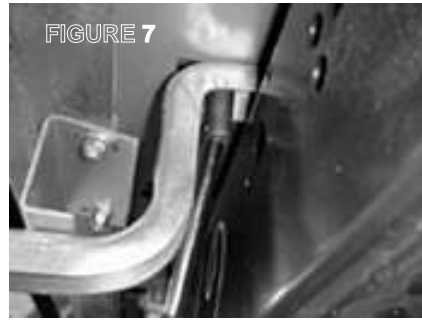
- STEP 1. Remove the contents from the box and check for any damage. Verify all parts against the parts list. Read and understand instructions completely before beginning installation.
- STEP 2. Remove the plastic splash guard attached to the underside of rocker panel by prying loose the plastic push pins and removing the speed nuts with an 11mm socket. SEE FIGURE 1.
- STEP 3. Once the guard is removed, cut off the plastic studs. Drill 5/16" holes in plastic guard to match the factory hole. NOTE: If the vehicle is equipped with rear A/C, loosen the A/C lines so that they may be moved out of the way when drilling.
- STEP 4. Mount the front support brackets to the factory rocker panel holes in locations 1, 2 and 4 from front of vehicle. NOTE: There are two front support brackets to the vehicle that are marked in the installation kit. The third hole location will have to be drilled.
- STEP 5. Starting at hole location 2, from the back of the support bracket, measure towards the rear of the vehicle 12 inches and mark the third hole location. SEE FIGURE 2.



- STEP 6. Use the front support bracket as a template to drill two 5/16" diameter holes in the bottom rocker panel. Mount the bracket to this location. NOTE: If the vehicle is equipped with A/C lines, make sure that they are not in the way. SEE FIGURES 3 AND 4.
- STEP 7. Under the vehicle floorboard, a 5/16" hole is located next to a cut out. In locations 1, 2 and 4 use the extruded u-nut supplied. SEE FIGURE 5.
- STEP 8. Mount the front bracket to the front support bracket. Use 5/16 x .75" hex head bolt, washer and nylock nut to mount the bracket. Make sure the hole location in the front support bracket lines up the hole location in the floorboard where the extruded u-nuts were installed. NOTE: There are two front brackets for the vehicle in the kit. Remember to leave loose at this time. SEE FIGURE 6.



- STEP 9. Install a 5/16 x 1.00" hex head bolt and washer through the bracket into the extruded u-nut on the floorboard. Fasten at this time. In location 3, use a tek screw to fasten the top of the bracket to the floorboard of the vehicle. SEE FIGURES 7 AND 8.



- STEP 10. Use 8 square head bolts in the appropriate slots in the aluminum on the running board. Use the outer slot and the inner slot. Position the running board onto the brackets. Use the 8 nylock nuts and washers to attach the board.
- STEP 11. Adjust the running board to the appropriate location on the vehicle and center the running board to the vehicle. Fasten all of the brackets to the running board at this time.
- STEP 12. Repeat the same installation steps for the other side to complete the installation.

#### INSTALLING THE LIGHTS & WIRING HARNESS TO YOUR STEP BOARDS (FOR LIGHTED VERSION)

- STEP 13. A three piece wiring harness is included with the Lighted Step Board. The harness includes four (4) light sockets and three plugs. Carefully plan a wire route from the right side Step Board to the left. Then choose a pass-through point (floor board to inner cab) for the wire harness. NOTE: WESTIN RECOMMENDS YOU USE A PROFESSIONAL TO INSTALL THE WIRING HARNESS. SEE STEPS 15-19.
- STEP 14. Attach wire harness and lights. Be sure rubber seals are in place before installation. The rubber grommet around the red and blue wires going into rear sockets should be completely inserted and recessed about 1/4" NOTE: To ensure the longevity of your lights, remove the bulb and place a small amount of white grease into the sockets and replace the bulb. Place a small amount of RTV Silicone where the wires go into the socket. This keeps the sockets dry and adds to longevity. Screw lights into each end of the board and run conduit in center slot of aluminum base board. This will hold harness in place.
- STEP 15. GENERAL TIPS FOR WIRING HARNESS INSTALLATION. NOTE: The light wiring harness installation requires splicing into vehicles electrical system.
- STEP 16. After choosing a pass-through point for cab harness (STEP 13.), follow this sequence: Route long lead harness to short lead harness and plug connectors securely. NOTE: Avoid areas of excess heat, vibration, pinch or rotation when securing harness to vehicle.
- STEP 17. Plug open-ended connection into unused connection. Either connector on short lead board harness will work. Route open ended wire harness through truck cab. Find the closest position to door light switch lead wire. Seal pass-through holes with silicone or permanent sealer.
- STEP 18. Connect positive and negative lead wires to vehicle sources (dome light or courtesy light under dash). Use vehicle door switch for ground lead source and appropriate positive lead for supply. NOTE: Always use a fused positive (+) power source.
- STEP 19. Test circuit for proper function and connection before tape sealing all exposed wires.

Finish protection - Westin products have a high quality finish that must be cared for like any other exposed finish on the vehicle. Protect the finish with a non-abrasive automotive wax (pure carnauba, for example) on a regular basis. The use of cleaner wax or any compound which contains an abrasive is detrimental, as the compounds scratch the finish and open it to corrosion.

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