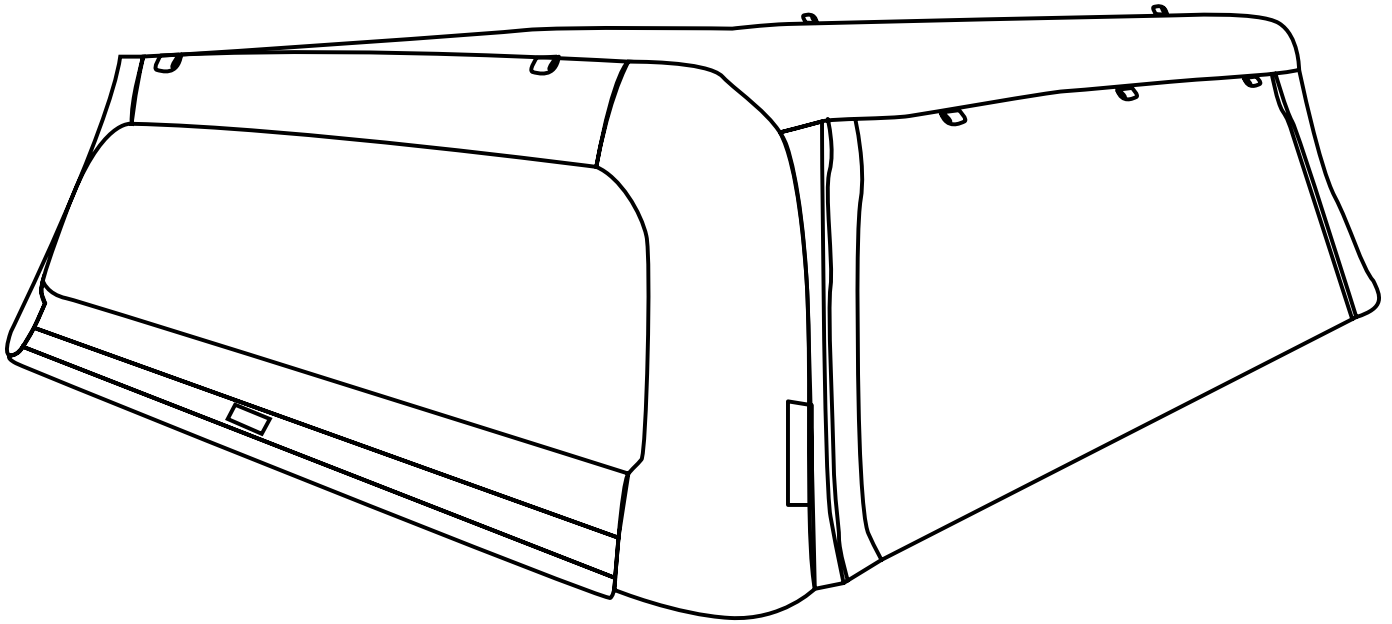




OVS

OVERLAND VEHICLE SYSTEMS

Explorer Soft Shell Instructions



**CAREFULLY READ INSTRUCTIONS
PRIOR TO THE FIRST USE OF THE
EXPLORER SOFT SHELL**

 **2 PERSON
ASSEMBLY**

SEPTEMBER 2025

Explorer Soft Shell Instructions

SET-UP & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

COMPONENTS

- 4-6 Clamps (Dependent on Bed Length)
- 2x Bow Assemblies
- 1x Front Bar
- 1x Rear Bar
- 1x Driver Side Rail
- 1x Passenger Side Rail
- 1x Soft Shell Fabric
- 1x Driver Side Fabric Panel
- 1x Passenger Side Fabric Panel
- 1x Rear Side Fabric Panel

TOOLS NEEDED

- Ft-lbs Torque Wrench with 9/16" socket
- Phillips Head Screwdriver
- 5mm Allen Wrench
- Protective Eyewear

NOTE: For best installation, ensure air and surface temperatures are above 60° F.

CAUTION: Over torquing hardware may damage components.

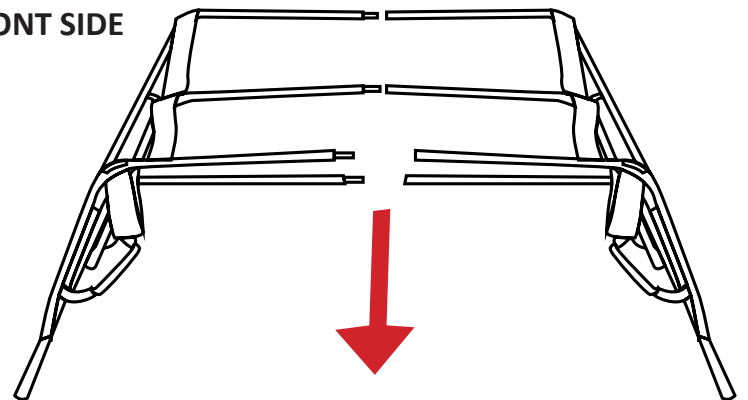
ASSEMBLING BOWS

1

Place the bow assemblies on a flat surface.
Spread them out so the straps lie flat.

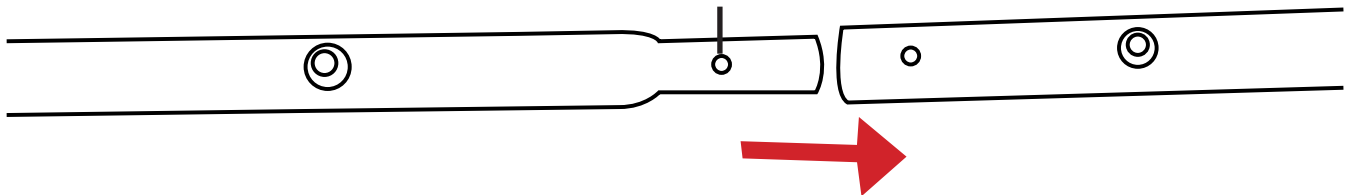
FRONT SIDE

REAR SIDE



Starting at one end, press the button pin and slide the left pole into the right pole until the button pin clicks into place.

BUTTON PIN



Repeat this process for all remaining bows.

ASSEMBLING FRAME

2

With the bows laid on a flat surface, position the driver-side rail next to the driver-side bows, and the passenger-side rail next to the passenger-side bows.

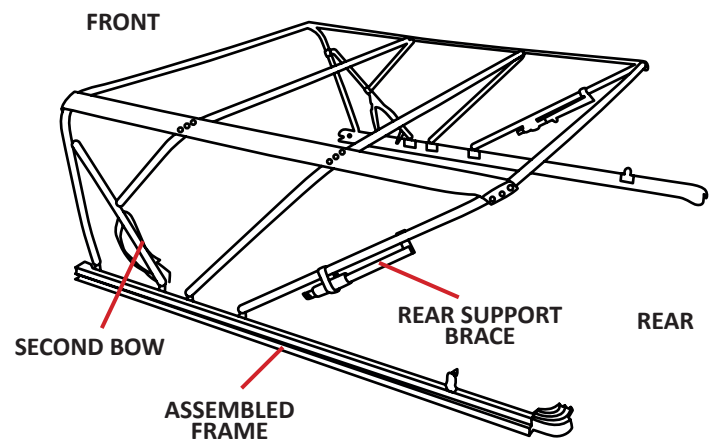
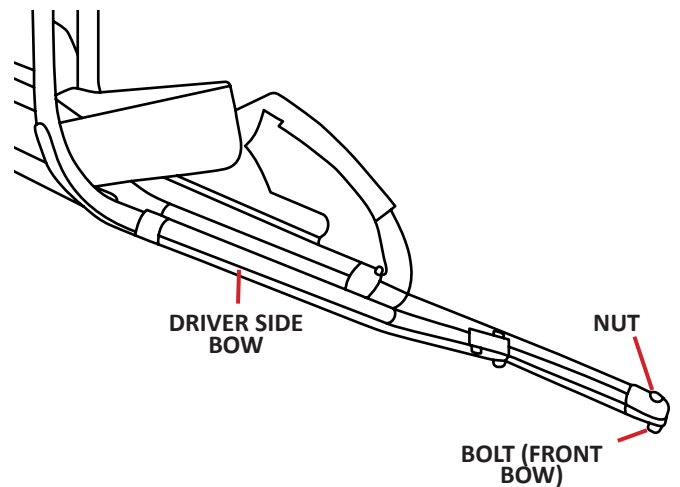
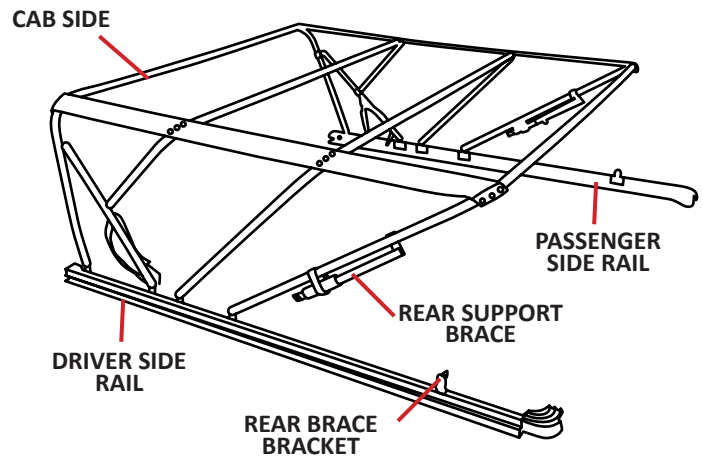
Remove the bolt from the end of the front bow, then align it with the front brace bracket on the side rail. Secure it in place with the bolt and nut, using a 5 mm Allen wrench.

Note: Make sure the nut does not slide out of the bow.

Repeat the process on the opposite side. Continue attaching the remaining bows to the side rails until the frame is complete.

Note: The second bow should angle outward from the front bow.

Note: The rear support brace will be attached after the Soft Shell is installed.



INSTALLING FRAME

3

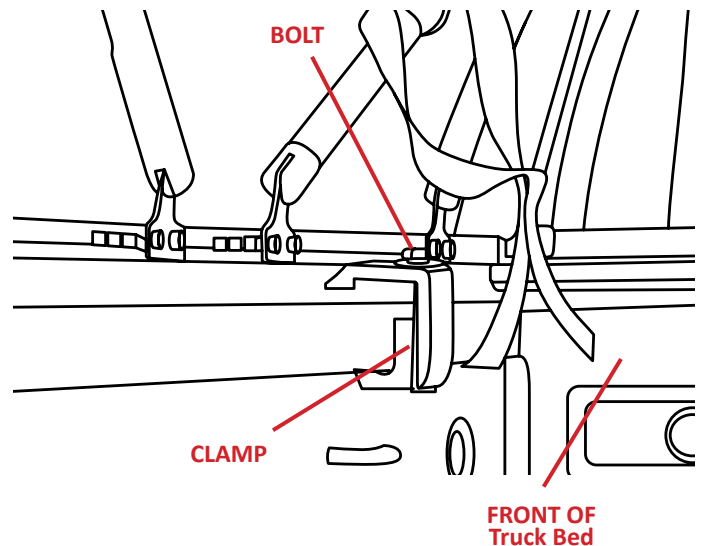
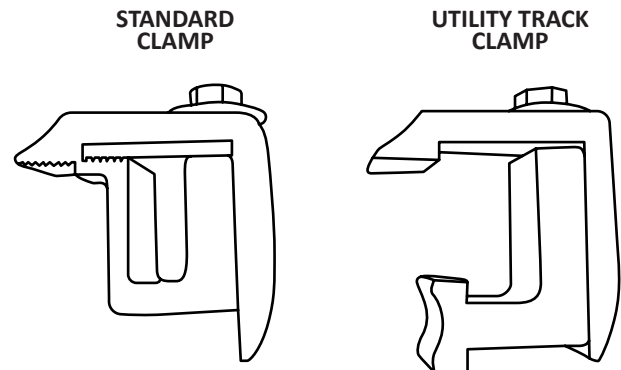
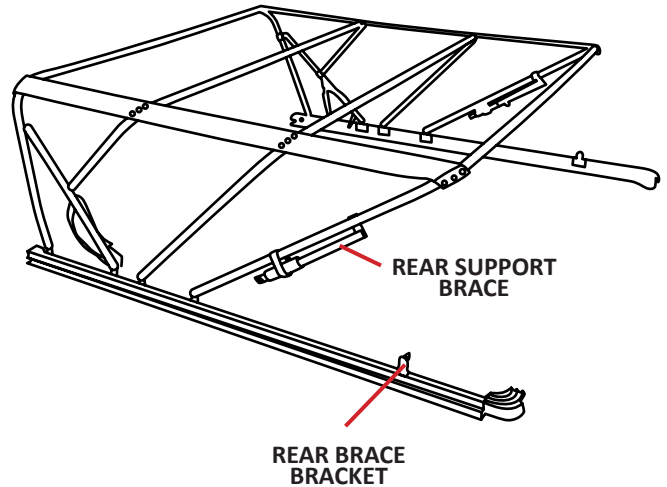
Note: Ensure the rear brace bracket is positioned at the rear of the Truck Bed.

Position the assembled frame onto the Truck Bed.

Note: If the rails sit wide on the bed cap, have a second person hold one side while you install the driver-side clamps.

Note: For vehicles with a utility track, remove the lower half of the standard clamp and replace it with the utility track clamp. Insert it into the utility track before clamping.

Install the first clamp as close to the front of the Truck Bed as possible. Hand-tighten the clamp bolt (do not fully tighten yet).



Explorer Soft Shell Instructions

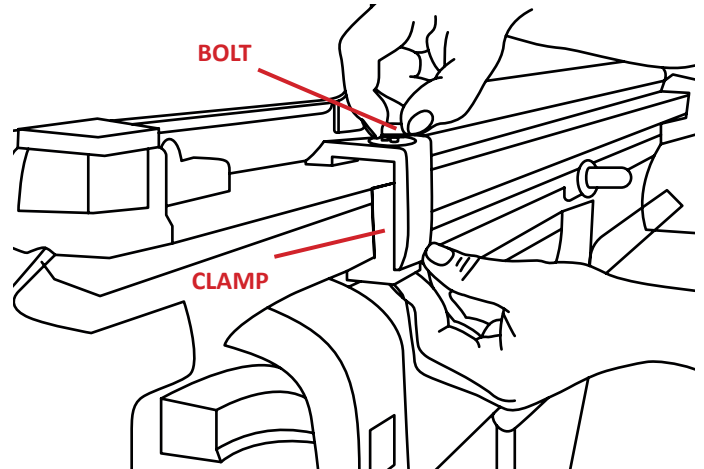
SET-UP & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Install the second clamp as close to the tailgate as possible. Hand-tighten the clamp bolt

If provided, install the third clamp at the midway point. Hand-tighten the clamp bolt.

Note: Ensure all clamp teeth fully engage the side rail grooves.

Repeat the process for the opposite side.



INSTALLING SOFT SHELL

4

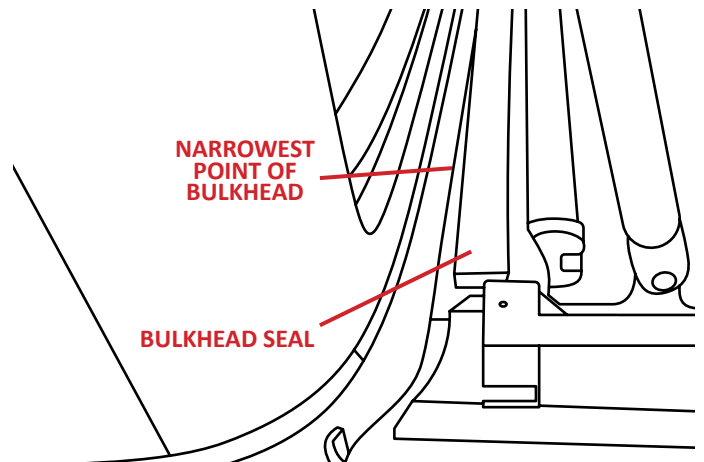
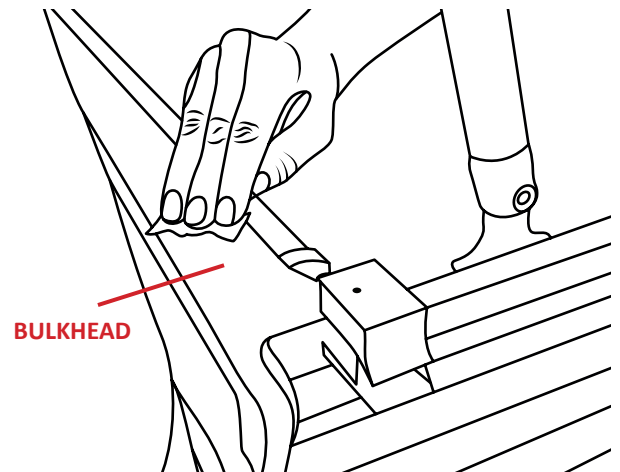
Ensure the bulkhead is clean. If necessary, wash and dry the surface first, then wipe the top surface with an alcohol pad.

Note: Bulkhead depth may vary. Identify the narrowest point to use as your alignment guide for the bulkhead seal.

Peel the protective backing as you work, aligning the bulkhead seal from one corner of the Truck Bed to the opposite corner. Cut to length.

Firmly press along the seal to secure the adhesive.

Note: For spray-in bed liners, improve adhesion by smoothing the surface and applying an adhesion promoter before installation.



Explorer Soft Shell Instructions

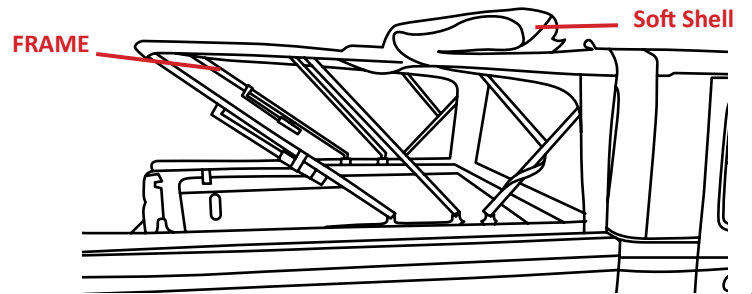
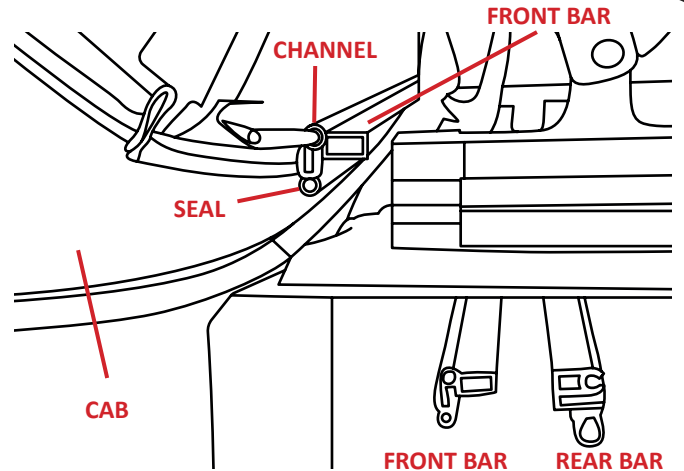
SET-UP & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

5

Slide the front bar into the channel on the Soft Shell's front panel (already attached to the Soft Shell), then position the front panel between the cab window and the frame.

Note: Ensure the seal on the front bar is facing downward.

Unfold the Soft Shell over the frame.



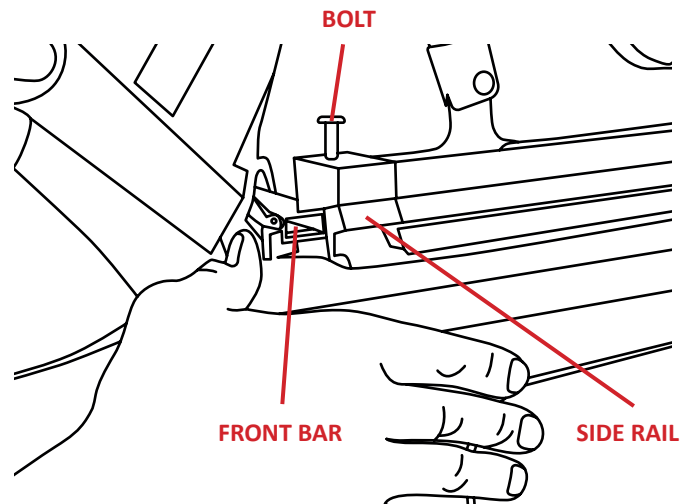
6

Press the front bar into the side rail openings.

Note: The front bar will fit tightly into the side rail. Make sure it is fully seated with no gaps between the front bar and the side rail.

Tighten the bolt until snug.

Repeat on the opposite side.



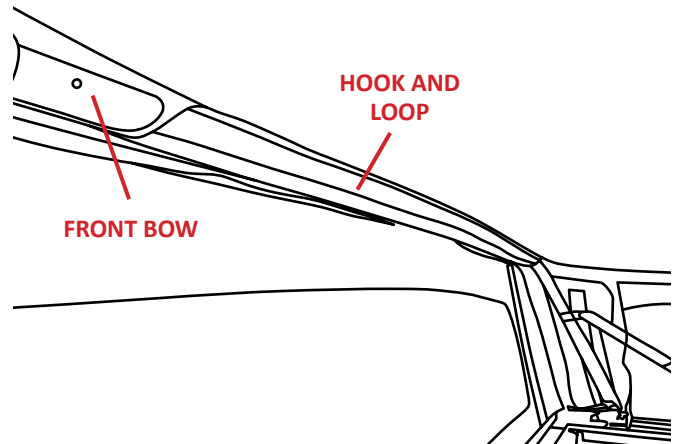
Explorer Soft Shell Instructions

SET-UP & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

7

Starting at one end, wrap the fabric flaps around the front bow and fasten them using the hook-and-loop closure.

Repeat for each remaining bow.

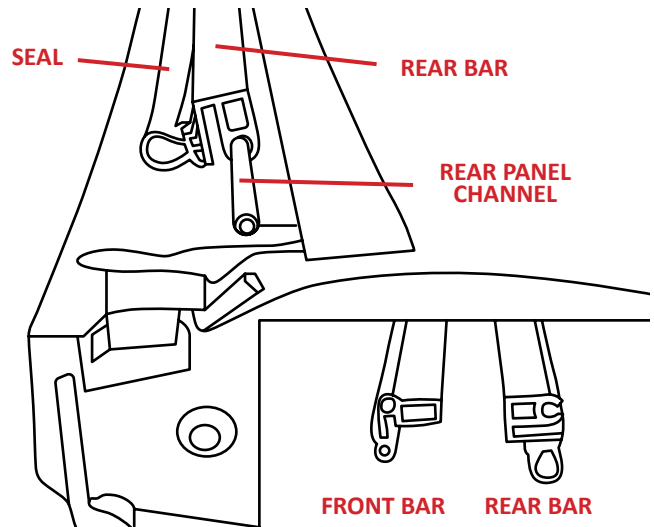


INSTALLING SOFT SHELL PANELS

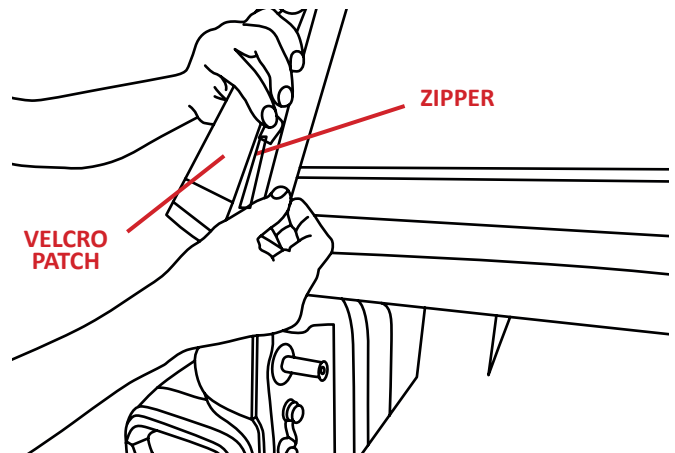
8

Slide the rear bar into the channel on the rear panel.

Note: Ensure the seal is facing away from the panel window.



Use the zipper to attach the rear panel, closing the top and sides completely. Secure the zipper with the Velcro patches.



Explorer Soft Shell Instructions

SET-UP & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

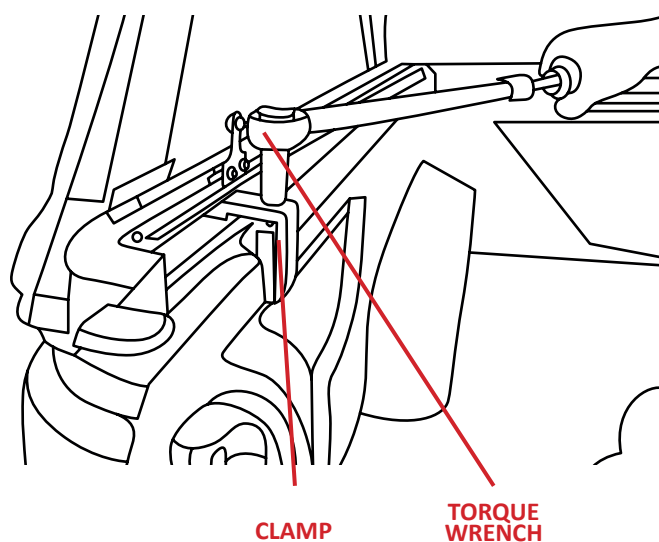
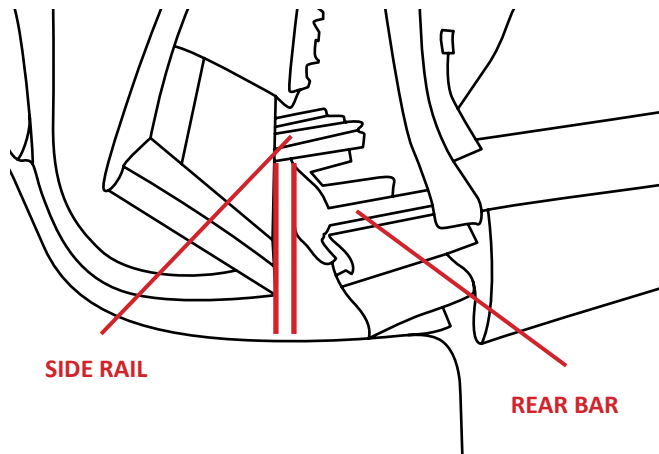
9

Press the rear bar into the side rail openings.

Note: Position the rails to maintain minimal side clearance from the rear bar.

Note: Ensure the topper does not contact the cab—adjust as needed.

Torque all clamps to 10 ft-lbs.



Explorer Soft Shell Instructions

SET-UP & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

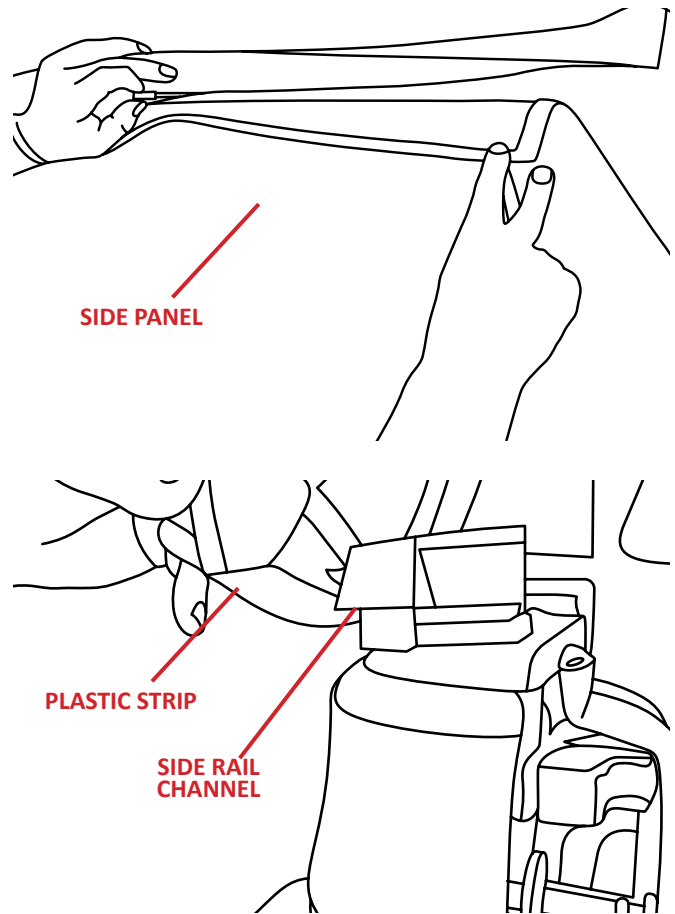
10

On one side of the frame, use the zipper to attach the side panel with the angled window facing toward the rear. Zip closed the top and sides completely.

Secure the bottom of the side panel by inserting the plastic strip under the channel in the side rail. Also, secure the topper corners at the front and rear with the plastic strip under the side rail corner channel.

Seal the top and sides of the topper using the hook-and-loop fasteners.

Repeat the process on the opposite side.



11

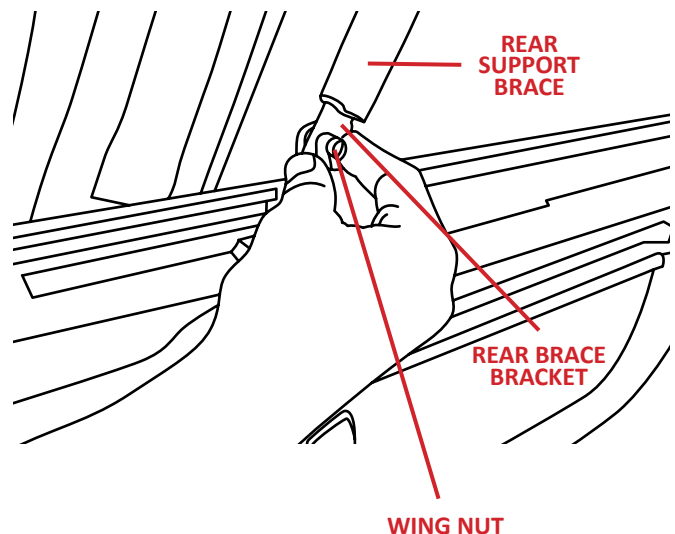
Loosen the wing nut on the rear brace bracket. Remove the rear support brace from its storage strap and install it under the wing nut of the rear brace. Tighten the wing nut securely.

Repeat on the opposite side.

Close the tailgate.

Note: When closing the tailgate, pull the bottom flap of the rear panel outward.

Note: If the topper feels too tight, adjust the rear brace brackets evenly toward the tailgate on both sides using a 5 mm Allen wrench. If it feels too loose, adjust the brackets evenly toward the cab on both sides with the same wrench.



OPENING SHELL

12

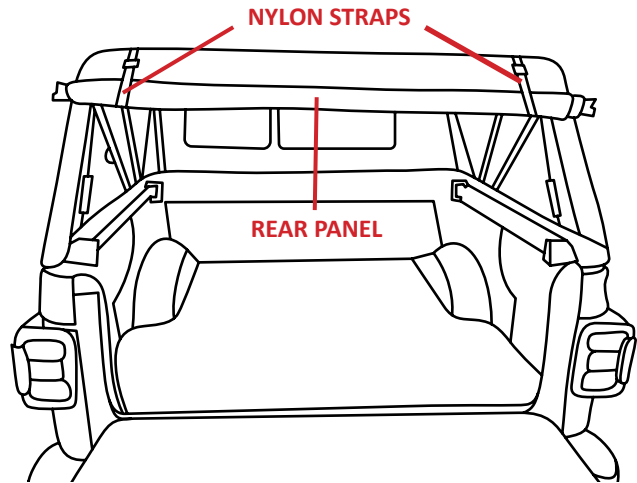
Open the tailgate.

Unzip the sides of the rear panel.

Disengage the rear bar from the side rails.

Roll up the rear panel and secure it with the storage straps.

Caution: Rolling the window in cold temperatures may cause damage.



13

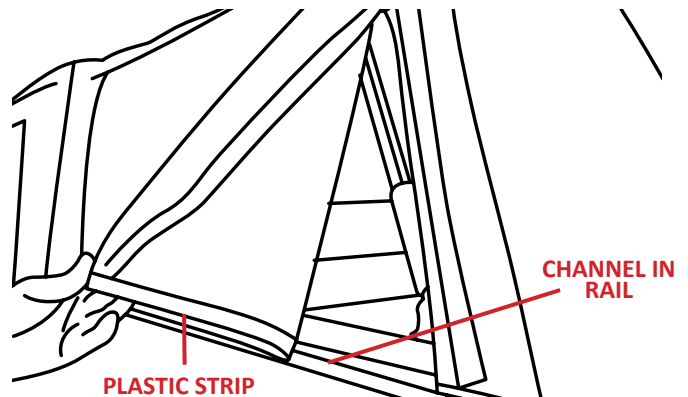
Disengage the velcro patches from the sides of the side panel.

Unzip the sides of the side panel.

Remove the plastic strip from under the channel in the side rail.

Roll up the side panel and secure it with the storage straps.

Repeat the process on the opposite side.



Explorer Soft Shell Instructions

SET-UP & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

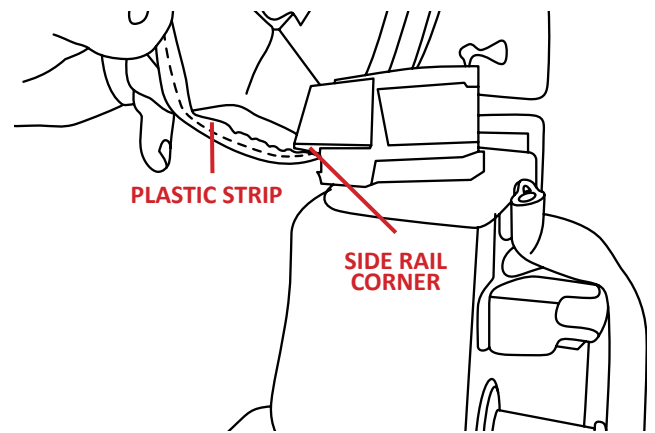
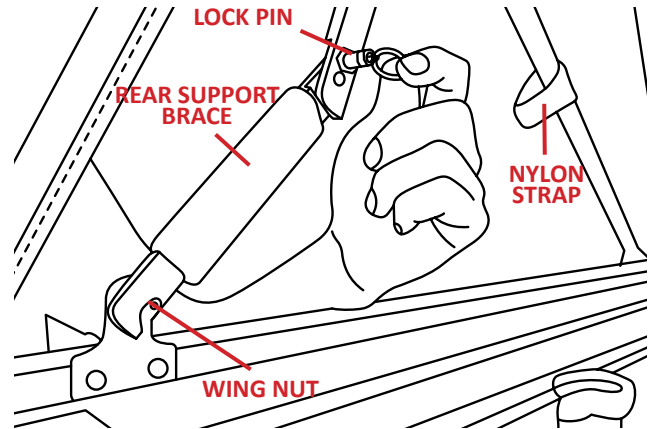
14

To fully open the topper, loosen the wing nut on the rear brace bracket and pull the lock pin to remove the rear support brace.

Place the rear support brace into the storage strap.

Remove the plastic strip from the corner of the side rail.

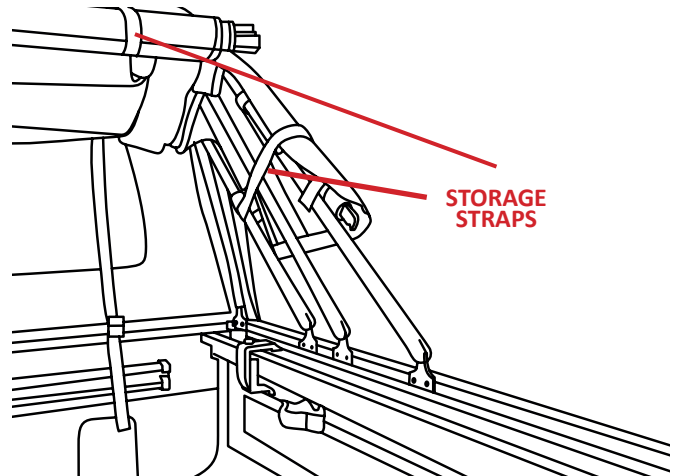
Repeat on the opposite side.



15

Fold the topper forward.

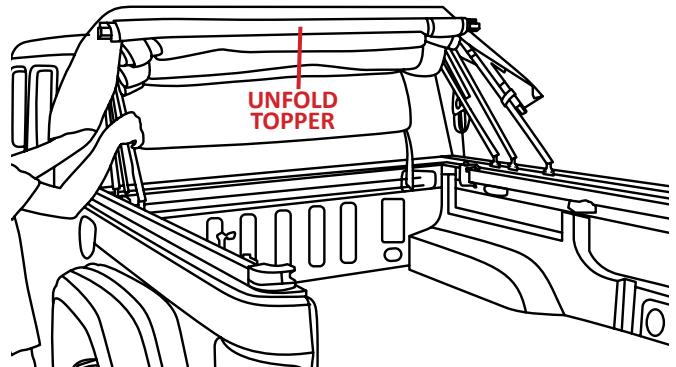
Secure the sides and top of the topper using the storage straps.



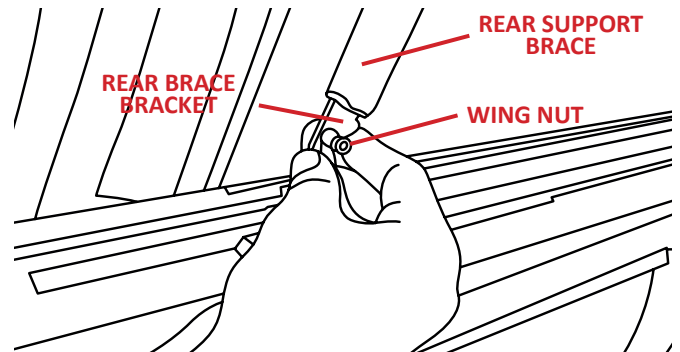
CLOSING TOPPER

Disengage the storage straps from the sides and top.

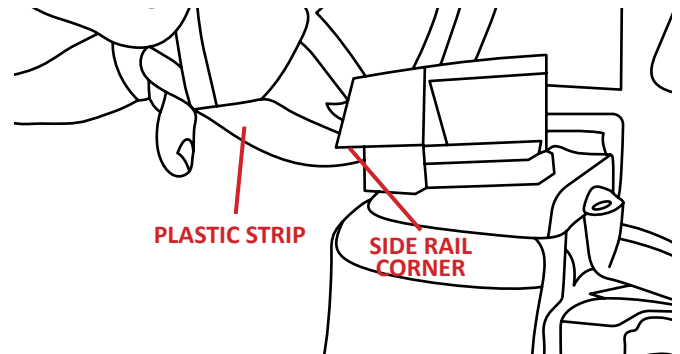
Unfold the topper.



Loosen the wing nut on the rear brace bracket. Remove the rear support brace from the storage strap and secure it under the wing nut. Tighten the wing nut firmly.

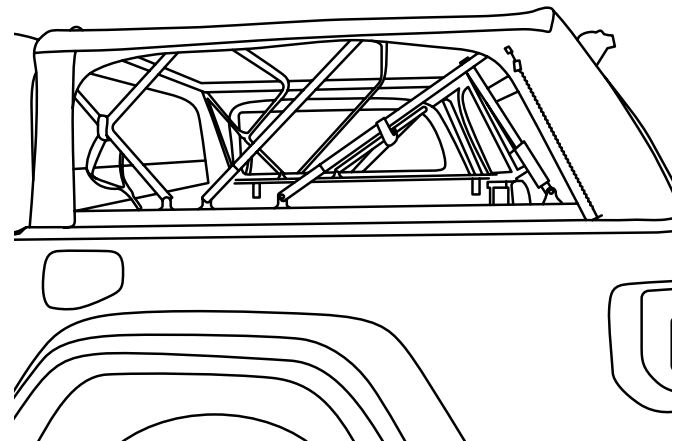


Secure the plastic strip under the corner of the side rail.



Repeat on the opposite side.

For instructions on installing the side and rear panels, please refer to the "Topper Panels" section of the manual.



Explorer Soft Shell Instructions

SET-UP & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Topper too tight	Ensure install is correct. Material is tight initially and will loosen over time. Adjust rear brace brackets toward tailgate evenly on both sides using 5mm Allen Wrench
Topper too loose	Adjust rear brace brackets
Gap between rear bar and side rail	Side rails set too far apart
Rear bar doesn't engage	Ensure rails are level. Adjust clamps as needed to level rails.

TIPS FOR A LONGER LASTING TOPPER

- Keep topper closed when not in use
- Keep the topper tight
- Ensure topper is properly sealed
- Close topper while traveling and before entering automatic drive-through car washes.
- Avoid storing topper in its open position for long periods of time
- Clear windows of debris by spraying with water before cleaning to avoid scratching windows. Do not use squeegee to clean windows.
- If Spraying with pressure washer, keep a minimum distance of 24" from the topper.
- When cleaning, use mild liquid soap and water. Never clean with petroleum or citrus based products. Petroleum based products may dry out and damage topper.
- Avoid rolling or folding windows in cold or varying weather conditions as it may cause cracking.

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

The operator can perform most of inspection and maintenance. It may be necessary to review the installation and operating instructions.

- In certain environmental conditions, humidity inside topper may cause condensation on inside of fabric appearing as dark spots. If dark spots appear, open tailgate to allow air inside of topper to acclimate with outside air and allow fabric to dry. Fabric is mold and mildew resistant.
- Periodically check and/or re-tighten clamps as needed.
- Periodically inspect the condition of topper and all parts. Check for loose bolts and parts, tighten if needed. Test the operation to ensure parts are functioning properly and topper is in top operational condition.



WARNINGS

- DO NOT COVER CARGO THAT IS HIGHER THAN THE TOPPER
- DO NOT PLACE OBJECT(S) ON OR AGAINST THE TOPPER OR ITS FRAMEWORK AT ANY TIME.
- ALWAYS SECURE CARGO TO AVOID SHIFTING AND DAMAGING THE TOPPER OR ITS PARTS
- DO NOT USE THE TOPPER'S FRAMEWORK TO TIE DOWN CARGO
- REMOVE SNOW OR DEBRIS FROM TOP OF TOPPER BEFORE FOLDING OR DRIVING
- NEVER STAND, SIT OR RIDE ON THE TOPPER OR ALLOW OTHERS TO DO SO.
- DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES UNATTENDED AS TOPPER DOES NOT PREVENT THEFT OF CARGO IN TRUCK TRUCK BED
- THE TOPPER DOES NOT ELIMINATE MOISTURE AND DUST FROM ENTERING THE TRUCK TRUCK BED. SPECIAL WRAPPINGS OR PACKAGING OF THE CARGO MAY BE NECESSARY.
- DUE TO POOR VENTILATION, IF YOU ALLOW A PET/ANIMAL IN THE TRUCK BED, LEAVE REAR WINDOW OPEN. DO NOT ALLOW PEOPLE OR ANIMALS TO OCCUPY TRUCK BED WITH THE TOPPER CLOSED.
- WHEN TOWING VEHICLE BACKWARD, TOPPER MUST BE FULLY OPEN AND SECURED WITH STORAGE STRAPS.
- USE CAUTION WHEN OPERATING TOPPER IN WINDY CONDITIONS
- PERIODICALLY CHECK/RE-TIGHTEN CLAMPS AS NEEDED.
- AVOID EXCESSIVE SPEEDS AND HIGH WINDS WHEN TOPPER IS IN OPEN POSITION.



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