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Stromberg Carlson VGD-10-4000

Stromberg Carlson VGD-10-4000 Louvered Tailgate User Manual

Model: VGD-10-4000

Product Overview

The Stromberg Carlson VGD-10-4000 Louvered Tailgate is designed for 2010-2013 Dodge 1500, 2500, and 3500 series full-size trucks. This composite tailgate features rotary latches and coated cables, allowing it to lay flush with the truck bed when lowered for easy cargo loading. It includes a single-hand release mechanism for convenient operation and theft prevention. The louvered design improves rear vision, reduces aerodynamic drag when towing, and protects the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) tailgate from damage. Accessory louvers can be added for enhanced privacy and customization (sold separately).



Image: The Stromberg Carlson VGD-10-4000 Louvered Tailgate shown installed on the rear of a pickup truck. The tailgate features horizontal louvers and a central locking mechanism, designed to replace a standard tailgate.

Specifications

Brand	Stromberg Carlson
Model Number	VGD-10-4000
Material	Glass filled composite resin
Color	Black
Dimensions (L x W x H)	66 x 25.7 x 5 inches
Item Weight	33.9 pounds (15.42 Kilograms)
Installation Type	Bolt-On

Vehicle Service Type	Truck (Dodge 1500, 2500, 3500 series, 2010-2013)
Key Features	Rotary latches, lightweight, durable, key locks gate onto truck, paintable surface.

Setup and Installation

The VGD-10-4000 Louvered Tailgate is designed for bolt-on installation. While the process is straightforward, having a second person assist can make installation easier and safer. Ensure your truck is a full-size Dodge 1500, 2500, or 3500 series from 2010-2013. This tailgate is not designed for step-side trucks.

Installation Steps:

1. **Preparation:** Park your truck on a level surface and engage the parking brake. Gather necessary tools, which typically include wrenches or sockets for bolt removal and installation.
2. **Remove Existing Tailgate:** Carefully detach your truck's original tailgate by unbolting it from the hinges and disconnecting any cables or electrical connections. Store the OEM tailgate safely if you plan to re-install it later.
3. **Position the New Tailgate:** With assistance, align the Stromberg Carlson louvered tailgate with the truck's tailgate hinges.
4. **Secure the Hinges:** Bolt the new tailgate securely to the truck's hinges. Ensure all bolts are tightened to the manufacturer's specifications.
5. **Connect Cables:** Attach the coated cables to the designated points on the tailgate and the truck bed. These cables support the tailgate when it is in the down position.
6. **Test Operation:** Open and close the tailgate several times to ensure smooth operation of the rotary latches and the single-hand release mechanism. Verify that the tailgate lays flush with the truck bed when lowered.
7. **Locking Mechanism:** Test the key lock feature to ensure the tailgate can be securely locked onto your truck, preventing theft.

Note: For detailed, step-by-step instructions specific to your truck model, refer to the included installation guide or consult a professional.

Operation

Operating the Stromberg Carlson Louvered Tailgate is designed for ease of use.

- **Opening the Tailgate:** Utilize the central single-hand release mechanism to unlatch the tailgate. Gently lower the tailgate until it rests on its coated cables, laying flush with the truck bed. This flat surface facilitates easy loading and unloading of cargo.
- **Closing the Tailgate:** Lift the tailgate firmly until the rotary latches engage securely. Ensure both sides are latched to prevent accidental opening during transit.
- **Locking the Tailgate:** Insert the provided key into the lock cylinder located on the tailgate. Turn the key to engage the locking mechanism, securing the tailgate to your truck and deterring theft. Remove the key after locking.

Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and appearance of your louvered tailgate, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Clean the composite resin surface regularly with mild soap and water. Avoid abrasive cleaners or harsh chemicals that could damage the finish.
- **Lubrication:** Periodically lubricate the rotary latches and hinge points with a silicone-based lubricant to ensure smooth operation and prevent sticking.

- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect the coated cables for any signs of wear, fraying, or damage. Check all bolts and fasteners for tightness and re-tighten if necessary.
- **Painting:** The composite gate can be painted to match your truck's color or for a custom look. If painting, ensure proper surface preparation and use paints suitable for composite materials. You can choose to paint the entire gate or just the accessory louvers if installed.
- **UV Protection:** While durable, prolonged exposure to harsh sunlight can affect composite materials over time. Consider using UV protectant sprays designed for plastics to help maintain the material's integrity and color.

Troubleshooting

Here are some common issues and their potential solutions:

- **Tailgate Does Not Latch Properly:**
  - Check for obstructions around the latches or striker plates.
  - Ensure the tailgate is properly aligned on its hinges.
  - Lubricate the rotary latches.
- **Tailgate is Difficult to Open/Close:**
  - Lubricate the hinges and latches.
  - Inspect cables for binding or damage.
- **Scratches or Marks on Surface:**
  - The composite material can show light marks from contact with objects. These can often be buffed out with a plastic-specific cleaner or polish. For deeper marks, consider painting the tailgate.
- **Key Lock Not Functioning:**
  - Ensure the key is fully inserted and turned correctly.
  - Apply a small amount of graphite lubricant to the lock cylinder if it feels stiff.
- **Gate Does Not Fit My Truck:**
  - Verify that your truck's make, model, and year (Dodge 1500, 2500, or 3500 series, 2010-2013) match the product's compatibility. This tailgate is designed for full-size trucks only and not step-side models.

Warranty Information

The Stromberg Carlson VGD-10-4000 Louvered Tailgate comes with a **limited two-year warranty**. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. For specific terms, conditions, and to initiate a warranty claim, please retain your proof of purchase and contact Stromberg Carlson customer support.

Customer Support

For further assistance, technical support, or inquiries regarding your Stromberg Carlson Louvered Tailgate, please visit the official Stromberg Carlson website or contact their customer service department. You can often find contact information on the product packaging or the brand's official online store.
Online Store: Stromberg Carlson Store on Amazon

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