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› Dorman 926-264 Latch Reinforcement User Manual

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Model: 926-264

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation and proper use of the Dorman 926-264 Latch Reinforcement. This component is designed to address fatigue in the door structure around the latch area in specific Dodge and Ram pickup models, ensuring proper door latch function and extending the life of the door assembly. Please read all instructions carefully before beginning installation.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Dorman 926-264 Latch Reinforcement is a durable, corrosion-resistant aluminum plate engineered to reinforce the door panel around the latch mechanism. It is a direct-fit solution that installs over the existing door panel, eliminating the need for extensive bodywork or full door replacement.

What's in the Box:

- 1x Latch Reinforcement Plate
- 6x Installation Screws (3 large, 3 small)



Figure 1: Contents of the Dorman 926-264 Latch Reinforcement kit, showing the metal reinforcement plate and the accompanying installation screws.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Before beginning, ensure the vehicle is parked on a level surface and the engine is off. It is recommended to wear appropriate safety gear, such as gloves and eye protection.

Compatible Vehicles:

- Dodge Ram 1500: 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
- Dodge Ram 2500: 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
- Dodge Ram 3500: 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002

Step-by-Step Guide:

1. **Prepare the Door Area:** Open the vehicle door that requires reinforcement. Inspect the area around the door latch for any debris or obstructions. Clean the surface if necessary.
2. **Position the Reinforcement Plate:** Carefully align the Dorman 926-264 reinforcement plate over the existing door panel,

ensuring that the cutouts on the plate match the latch mechanism and existing screw holes. The plate is designed to fit precisely over the fatigued area.

3. **Secure the Plate:** Using the provided screws, begin to fasten the reinforcement plate to the door panel. Start with the larger screws for the main attachment points, then use the smaller screws for additional securing points. Ensure all screws are tightened firmly but do not overtighten to avoid stripping.
4. **Test Door Latch Function:** After securing the plate, gently close and open the door several times to confirm that the latch mechanism operates smoothly and securely. Verify that the door closes completely and latches properly.
5. **Final Inspection:** Visually inspect the installed reinforcement plate to ensure it is flush with the door panel and all screws are securely in place.



Figure 2: Illustrates the reinforcement plate being installed over the existing door panel, showing the alignment with the door latch mechanism.

OPERATION

The Dorman 926-264 Latch Reinforcement is a passive structural component. Once correctly installed, its operation is integrated

with the vehicle's door latch system. It functions by providing additional structural integrity to the door panel, preventing further fatigue and ensuring the door latch operates as intended by the vehicle manufacturer. No specific user interaction is required with the reinforcement plate itself after installation.

MAINTENANCE

The Dorman 926-264 Latch Reinforcement is designed for long-term durability and typically requires minimal maintenance. Periodically, it is advisable to:

- **Inspect Fasteners:** Check the installation screws for tightness during routine vehicle maintenance. Retighten if any looseness is detected.
- **Clean Surface:** If exposed, wipe down the reinforcement plate with a damp cloth to remove dirt or grime. Avoid abrasive cleaners that could damage the finish.
- **Monitor Door Function:** Continue to monitor the door latch operation. If any issues arise, refer to the troubleshooting section.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues after installing the Dorman 926-264 Latch Reinforcement, consider the following:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Door still difficult to latch or unlatch.	Screws not fully tightened; plate not correctly aligned; underlying latch mechanism issue.	Ensure all screws are tight. Re-check plate alignment. If problem persists, inspect the vehicle's original door latch mechanism for wear or damage.
Plate appears loose after installation.	Screws have loosened over time; incorrect screw type used.	Retighten all screws. Ensure only the provided screws are used for installation.
Unusual noise from door area.	Loose plate; interference with other door components.	Check for loose screws. Verify the plate is not contacting other moving parts within the door assembly.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Detail
Model Number	926-264
Brand	Dorman
Material	Corrosion-resistant aluminum
Item Weight	5.7 ounces
Product Dimensions	8.8 x 3.3 x 3.3 inches
OEM Part Numbers	55075355; 55076075; 55076077; 55076289; 55076289AB; 55076291; 55076291AB

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Dorman products are backed by a commitment to quality and durability. For specific warranty information regarding your 926-264

Latch Reinforcement, please refer to the warranty documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Dorman website. For technical assistance, installation questions, or to report any issues, please contact Dorman customer support. Contact information can typically be found on the product packaging or on the official Dorman website.