



BMW E53 X5 Skid Plate
Installation Instructions - [Click HERE to Shop](#)



Skill Level
2 - Moderate
Some Experience
Recommended



Proper service and repair procedures are vital to the safe, reliable operation of all motor vehicles as well as the personal safety of those performing the repairs. Standard safety procedures and precautions (including use of safety goggles and proper tools and equipment) should be followed at all times to eliminate the possibility of personal injury or improper service which could damage the vehicle or compromise its safety.

INSTALLATION NOTES

- **RH** refers to the *passenger side* of the vehicle.
- **LH** refers to the *driver side* of the vehicle.
- Always use the proper torque specifications.
- If applicable to this installation, torque specifications will be listed throughout the document and at the end as well.
- Please read all of these instructions and familiarize yourself with the complete process **BEFORE** you begin.

GENERAL PREPARATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION

ECS Tuning cares about your health and safety, please read the following safety information. This information pertains to automotive service in general, and while it may not pertain to every job you do, please remember and share these important safety tips.

- Park your car in a safe, well lit, level area.
- Shut the engine off and remove the key from the ignition switch.
- Make sure any remote start devices are properly disabled.
- **ALWAYS** wear safety glasses.
- Make sure the parking brake is applied until the vehicle is safely lifted and supported.
- Whether lifting a vehicle using an automotive lift or a hydraulic jack, be sure and utilize the factory specified lift points.
- Lifting a vehicle in an incorrect location can cause damage to the suspension/running gear.
- **ALWAYS** support the vehicle with jack stands.
- **ALWAYS** read and follow all safety information and warnings for the equipment you are using.

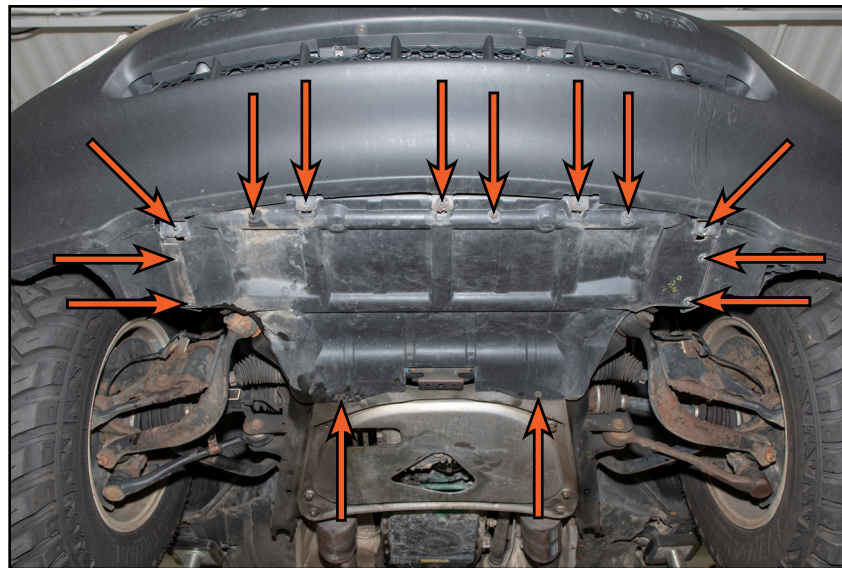


NEVER get underneath a vehicle that is supported only by a jack, and **ALWAYS** make sure that the vehicle is securely supported on jack stands.

REMOVING THE STOCK BELLY PAN

Step 1: 8mm, 10mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the fasteners (arrows) which secure the belly pan and bumper cover to the underside of the vehicle. Remove the belly pan.



Step 2: 8mm, 10mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the eight fasteners (circled in **RED**) which secure the bumper cover to the front of the vehicle.



REMOVING THE STOCK BELLY PAN

Step 3: 8mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the two screws (arrows) which secure each side of the bumper to the fender liners. Disconnect any hoses or wiring harnesses between the bumper and vehicle and carefully remove the bumper.



Step 4: 8mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the two screws (circled in **RED**) which secure each brake duct to the side of the frame rail.



REMOVING THE STOCK BELLY PAN

Step 5: Trim Removal Tool

Remove the push rivet (arrow) which secures the front of each brake duct, then set the duct aside.

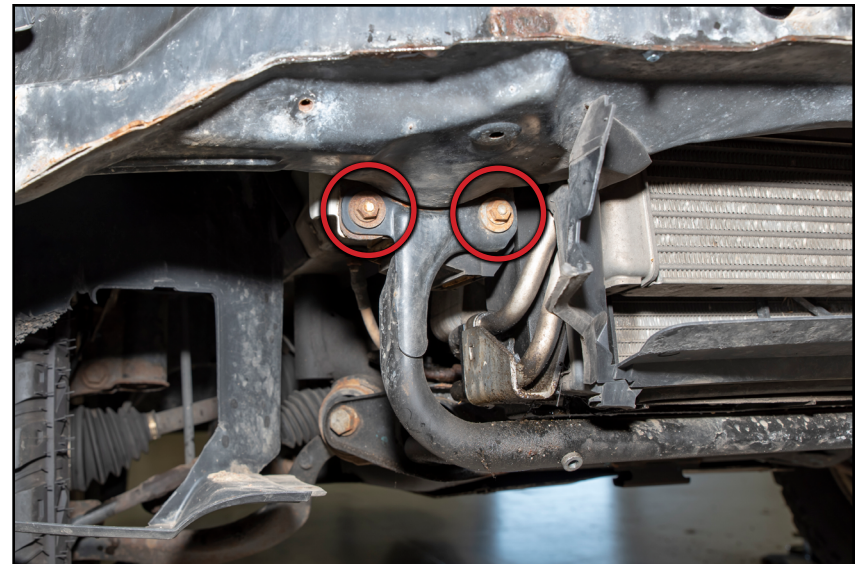


There is a temp sensor on the LH (driver's) side that must be disconnected from the duct before the duct can be removed.



Step 6: 13mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the two nuts (circled in **RED**) which secure either side of the stock brace to the front of the frame rail. Carefully remove the brace from the vehicle.



INSTALLING THE NEW SKID PLATE

Step 1:

Remove the 21mm bolt and nut which secures each tension arm to the subframe. Install the side braces (inset photos) and secure them in place with the tension arm bolts (arrows in inset photos) and nuts. Leave the nuts loose for now.

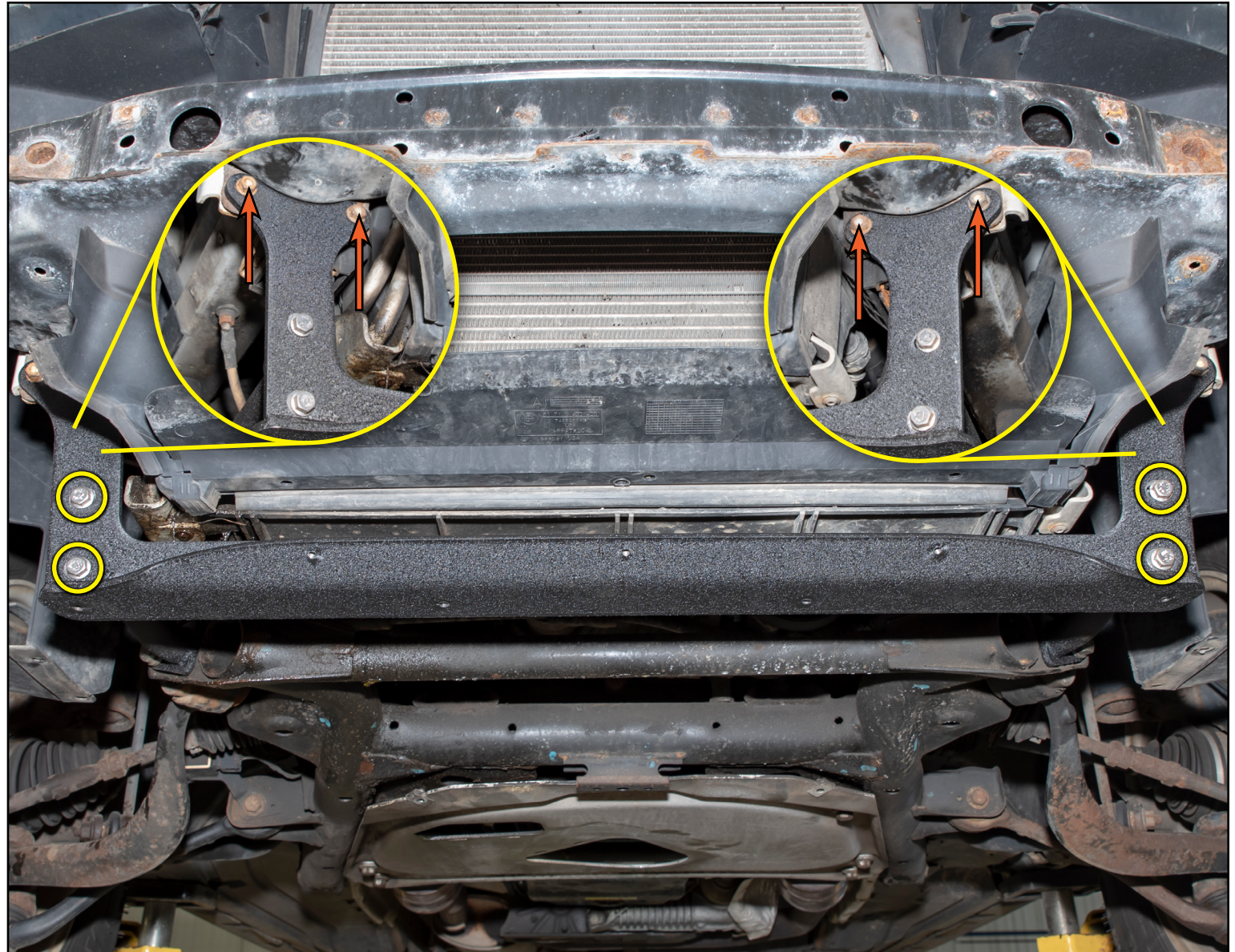


INSTALLING THE NEW SKID PLATE

Step 2:

Lift the front brace up onto the studs on the front of the frame rail, then reinstall the four nuts (arrows in inset photos). Install the four M8 x 25mm bolts (circled in **YELLOW**), and tighten them until snug.

Go back and torque the tension arm nuts to 165 Nm (122 Ft-lbs) at ride height.



INSTALLING THE NEW SKID PLATE

Step 3:

Pry the two speed clips (circled in **RED**) free.



Step 4:

Replace the speed clips with the M8 clip nuts (circled in **YELLOW**) provided in the kit.



INSTALLING THE NEW SKID PLATE

Step 5: 8mm Socket & Ratchet

Reinstall the brake ducts (highlighted in **GREEN**) in reverse order of removal.



Step 6: 8mm, 10mm Socket & Ratchet

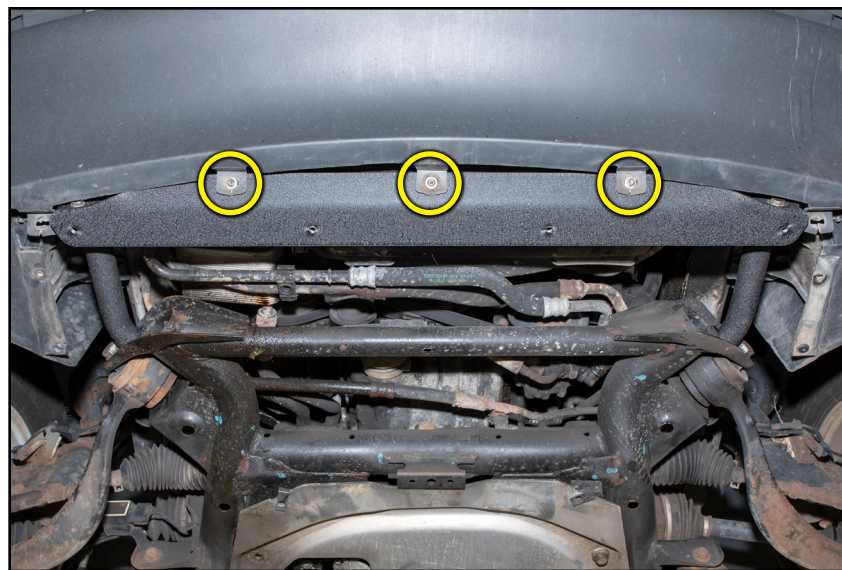
Reinstall the bumper cover in reverse order of removal.



INSTALLING THE NEW SKID PLATE

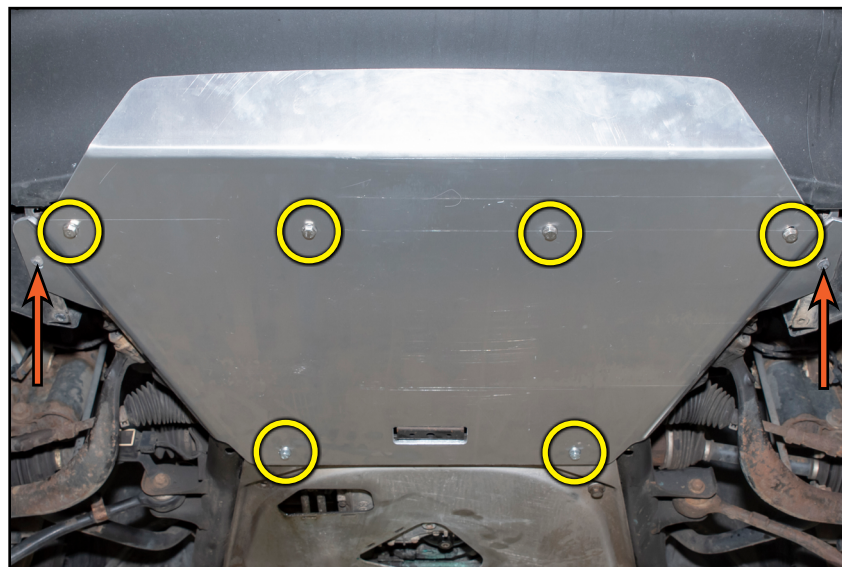
Step 7: 4mm Hex (Allen)

Secure the underside of the bumper cover to the three frontmost holes on the brace using the provided M6 x 16mm screws (circled in **YELLOW**).



Step 8: 8mm, 13mm Socket & Ratchet

Lift the skid plate up into place and secure it with the six M8 x 25mm bolts (circled in **YELLOW**). Reinstall two of the OE screws (arrows) to secure the fender liners to the sides of the skid plate.



Your Skid Plate installation is complete!



These instructions are provided as a courtesy by ECS Tuning

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