

Convertible Top Installation Instructions for Part No. C-731 & C-731A 1987-93 BMW 318i, 320i and 325i – Model E30 Manual Top Frame & Power Top Frame

These instructions are basic to the 1987-93 BMW 318i, 320i and 325i Model E30, **and are designed to be a guide only**. They should allow you to generally find your way around an installation, but are not specific. Your car may differ a little from these instructions. They are not meant to substitute for the knowledge and experience of a professional installer. We recommend that you use a professional installer as they have the required expertise and tools. Our products are made similar to the original so, we cannot be responsible for damages due to incorrect installation of the top, window, cables, hardware or any other related component.

Prior to beginning installation please check your order to be sure that everything is correct, i.e., year, make, model, color, material, etc. If we sent you the wrong item, we will gladly accept it back for credit and ship you the correct items, providing the incorrect item are returned in saleable condition. No credit will be issued for incorrect items if installation has been started.

Before you remove your old top, lay your new top over it to check fit. It may seem a little small as it is lying over the current top.

Suggestion: Remove original top carefully, noting installation and use old top as a reference while installing your new top.

To Remove Old Top:

1. Release top from front windshield and open top 1/3 of the way. This will unlock the rear bow section. Have someone support the top while you open the storage compartment and lower the top into the compartment.
2. Carefully remove the rubber weatherstrip from the front bow, as it will need to be re-installed. Remove screws from metal channel then, remove retainer and top from the front bow. Take special care as this retainer is easily damaged.
3. Raise top 2/3 of the way and have someone support the top while you lift the rear bow up to access the rear section under the metal frame. Carefully remove the rubber weatherstrip, as it will need to be re-installed. Remove the screws from the metal channel and release the top from the frame.
4. At the side quarters remove the rubber window channels and release the top from the sides. Release the side tension cables on each side of the top at the front bow and pull them out from the old top. On the inside of the car release the material covering from all four center bows and remove the top from the car.
5. Save your old top for reference, as referring to it will answer many installation questions.

To Install New Top:

1. Place the top over the car frame, adjust and center the top in position. Using the string provided in the cable pockets tie on the side tension cables and slide through top. Re-attach the wire cables to the front of the frame.

2. Release the rear bow and apply spray contact cement around the edge of the frame and both quarter flaps following the directions on the can. Working from the center toward each side, attach the top over the glued area keeping the material smooth and taut.
3. **Note: The bottom edge of the metal frame must fit snug into the pocket and follow the contour of the sew line at the rear section of the top.**
4. Once the material is completely attached re-install the metal channel and rubber weather-strip, then lock the rear section to the rear deck. Apply spray contact cement to the front edge of the front bow and attach the top starting from the front corner pockets. Smooth the material across the front bow. If necessary, the material can be released and re-positioned to smooth out any inconsistencies.

Note: The finished top is going to fit tight and will need to stay in the up position for approximately two weeks prior to retracting in order for the material to take on the natural shape of the frame. This is especially true in colder climates.