

Ford Ranger OEM Tow Hooks Installation (1998-2011)

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This write up will explain how to add OEM tow hooks to your Ranger (1998-2011). My 2011 Sport 2WD didn't have them and I felt it needed that little extra pizzazz. The holes for the tow hooks were there from factory. No drilling was required. To answer "is this an easy mod?". Yes... Sort of... It might be a little bit fiddly when you get to installing the passenger side tow hook. If you have a truck with the 4.0L, SOHC that has a transmission cooler like mine, you will have the same experience that I did. If your truck does not have a transmission cooler, less work for you! This install is definitely doable without removing the front bumper (as I have done) but if you feel that it is easier to remove the front bumper to complete the install, more power to you!

* It must be noted that in researching how to do this, apparently some trucks did not come with holes drilled in the front cross member for tow hooks. I don't know what years, trims, etc. that got the holes or not. The simplest way to determine is to actually look at your cross member. In the junkyard retrieval section below, there are pictures of the holes on the member. If your truck has the same hole patterns, you most likely have the correct holes already.

Disclaimer: The Ranger Station.com, The Ranger Station.com Staff, nor the original poster are responsible for you doing this modification to your vehicle. By doing this modification and following this how-to you, the installer, take full responsibility if anything is damaged or messed up. If you have questions, feel free to PM the original poster or ask in the appropriate section of The Ranger Station.com forums.

Difficulty: 4 out of 10 (if no holes are needing to be drilled in cross member)

Materials

- 2 tow hooks (left and right)
- 6 bolts (3 per tow hook)

- Breaker bar (for removal from junkyard)
- 15mm socket (various types depending...)
- 8mm socket
- Corresponding wrenches for sockets
- Torque wrench
- Blue Thread locker / Locktite
- Really long extension or a bunch of extensions put together (1.5ft or longer)

* I had to play with different length 15mm sockets to allow me to fit the wrenches in to tighten the bolts. You may have to experiment to find a socket that works in the spot you are working on.

Procedure

- i. Getting the tow hooks from the junkyard:

Take a 15mm socket and remove 3 bolts per tow hook using the breaker bar for easier removal. The use of a penetrating lubricant here should help if the bolts are really stuck.



Here you can see the location of the tow hooks on the front cross member.