INSTALLATION INSTRUCTION

Suspension System RS6569B

Chevrolet Colorado / GMC Canyon
IMPORTANT NOTES!

WARNING: This suspension system will enhance the off-road performance of your vehicle. It will handle differently, both on and off-road, from a factory equipped passenger car or truck. Extreme care must be used to prevent loss of control or vehicle rollover during abrupt maneuvers. Failure to drive this vehicle safely may result in serious injury or death to the driver and passengers. ALWAYS WEAR your seat belts, REDUCE your speed, and AVOID sharp turns and other abrupt maneuvers.

A. Before installing this system, have the vehicle’s alignment and frame checked by a certified technician. The alignment must be within factory specifications and the frame of the vehicle must be sound (no cracks, damage or corrosion).

B. Do not install a body lift kit with this suspension system or interchange Rancho components with parts from another manufacturer. Use the appropriate Rancho shock absorbers.

C. Do not powdercoat or plate any of the components in this system. To change the appearance of components, automotive paint can be applied over the original coating.

D. Each hardware kit in this system contains fasteners of high strength and specific size. Do not mix hardware kits or substitute a fastener of lesser strength. See bolt identification table on page 2.

E. Compare the contents of this system with the parts list in these instructions. If any parts are missing, contact the Rancho Technical Department at 1-734-384-7804.

F. Install all nuts and bolts with a flat washer. When both SAE (small OD) and USS (large OD) washers are used in a fastener assembly, place the USS washer against the slotted hole and the SAE washer against the round hole.

G. Apply a drop of thread locking compound to all bolts during installation. CAUTION: Thread locking compound may irritate sensitive skin. Read warning label on container before use.

H. Unless otherwise specified, tighten all nuts and bolts to the standard torque specifications shown in the table on page 2. USE A TORQUE WRENCH for accurate measurements.

I. Some of the service procedures require the use of special tools designed for specific procedures. The following tools and supplies are recommended for proper installation of this system:

- Colorado/Canyon Service Manual
- Universal Steering Linkage Puller J24319
- Ball Joint Separator J43631
- Torque Angle Meter J36660-A
- Die Grinder
- Drill motor
- Assorted Drills: 1/8” through 1/2”
- Torque Wrench (250 FT-LB capacity)
- 1/2” Drive Ratchet and Sockets
- Assorted Combination Wrenches
- Heavy Duty Jack Stands
- Wheel Chocks (wooden blocks)
- Hydraulic Floor Jack
- Center punch
- File
- Hammer
- Wire Brush (to clean bracket mounting surfaces)
- Black Enamel Paint
- Brake Fluid
- Tape Measure
- Safety Glasses (wear safety glasses at all times)

J. It is extremely important to replace torsion bars, CV flanges, and front drive shaft/pinion relationships as original. Be sure to mark left/right, front/rear, and indexing of mating parts before disassembly. A paint marker or light colored nail polish is handy for this.
K. Suspension components that use rubber or urethane bushings should be tightened with the vehicle at normal ride height. This will prevent premature failure of the bushing and maintain ride comfort.

L. Welding on a car creates an electrical charge throughout the body and frame. Disconnect the vehicle’s battery prior to any welding. Place welding ground clamps as near as possible to the weld. Never use a vehicle suspension component as a welding ground point.

M. The required installation time for this system is approximately 4 to 5 hours. Check off the box ☐ at the beginning of each step when you finish it. Then when you stop during the installation, it will be easier to find where you need to continue from.

N. The recommended tire and wheel size for this suspension system is a 285/70 R17 with 4.5 inches of wheel backspacing. Minor wheelhouse trimming is required. Before installing any other combination, consult your local tire and wheel specialist. Actual tire size varies by manufacturer.

O. Important information for the end user is contained in the consumer/installer information pack. If you are installing this system for someone else, place the information pack on the driver’s seat. Please include the installation instructions when you finish.

P. Thank you for purchasing the best suspension system available. For the best-installed system, follow these instructions. If you do not have the tools or are unsure of your abilities, have this system installed by a certified technician. RANCHO SUSPENSION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE OR FAILURE RESULTING FROM AN IMPROPER OR MODIFIED INSTALLATION...

<table>
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<tr>
<th>STANDARD BOLT TORQUE SPECIFICATIONS</th>
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G = Grade Marking (bolt strength)  
D = Nominal Diameter (inches)      
T = Thread Pitch (threads per inch)  
L = Length (inches)  
X = Description (hex head cap screw)  
P = Property Class (bolt strength)  
D = Nominal Diameter (millimeters)  
T = Thread Pitch (thread width, mm)  
L = Length (millimeters)  
X = Description (hex head cap screw)
### PARTS LIST

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### FRONT SUSPENSION

#### VEHICLE PREPARATION & TORSION BAR REMOVAL

1) **Mark** park the vehicle on a level surface. Set the parking brake and chock rear wheels. Measure and record the distance from the center of each wheel to the top of the fender opening. See illustration 1.

![Illustration 1](image1.png)

**LR _____ LF _____**

**RR _____ RF _____**

2) **Mark** raise the front of the vehicle and support the frame with jackstands. Remove the front wheels and set them aside.

3) **Mark** remove the push pins from the inner wheelhouse liners. Remove the liners.

4) **Mark** mark the torsion bars left and right. Make alignment marks on the torsion bars, the lower control arms, and the adjustment arms.

5) **Mark** measure and record the length of adjuster bolt threads above the adjuster nut.

6) **Mark** remove the adjuster bolt, spacer and adjuster nut. See illustration 2.

![Illustration 2](image2.png)

**Adjuster Nut**

**Torsion Bar**

**Adjustment Arm**

**Adjuster Bolt**

7) **Mark** disengage the torsion bar from the lower control arm. Remove the adjustment arm and torsion bar.

8) **Mark** repeat steps 5 through 7 for the other side.
**Bump Stop & Shock Absorber Removal**

1) □ Remove the bump stop from the frame bracket as shown in illustration 3. Save for reuse.

![Illus. 3](image)

2) □ Support the lower control arm with a jack.

3) □ Remove the shock absorber upper mounting nut and insulator. See illustration 4.

![Illus. 4](image)

4) □ Remove shock absorber lower mounting bolt. Remove shock absorber.

5) □ Repeat steps 1 through 4 for the other side.

**Steering Knuckle & Lower Control Arm Removal**

1) □ Support the lower control arm.

2) □ Disconnect the sway bar end from the sway bar. Leave end link attached to control arm.

3) □ Remove the nut from the outer tie rod stud. Disconnect the tie rod end from the steering knuckle with the recommended puller (J24319).

4) □ Disconnect the ABS wire at the frame rail harness. Separate the wire from the frame and upper control arm.

5) □ Remove the axle hub nut. Label the wheel hub and rotor assembly left or right for installation reference.

6) □ Remove the brake caliper and its mounting bracket as an assembly. Hang the caliper assembly with wire or a tie wrap.

7) □ Remove the nut from the lower ball joint stud. Separate the ball joint from the lower control arm with the recommended puller (J43631).

8) □ Remove the nut from the upper ball joint. Separate the ball joint from the upper control arm. Remove the steering knuckle and hub assembly. See illustration 5.

![Illus. 5](image)

9) □ Remove the lower control arm pivot bolts. See illustration 6. Remove the lower control arm.

10) □ Repeat steps 1 through 9 for the other side.
**FRONT DIFFERENTIAL DROP BRACKET INSTALLATION (4WD ONLY)**

1) □ Disconnect the vent hose and electrical connector. Support the front differential assembly with adjustable stands.

2) □ Reference mark the front driveshaft to the front differential yoke. Remove the yoke retainer bolts and retainers. See illustration 7.

3) □ Disconnect the driveshaft from the differential. Wrap bearing caps with tape and **support** the shaft.

**CAUTION:** Lowering the driveshaft to far may damage the CV boot at the transfer case.

4) □ Remove the front differential assembly mounting bracket to frame bolts. **Carefully** lower the differential about 4 inches.

5) □ Attach drop brackets 176348 and 176406 to the driver side frame and front differential assembly as shown in illustration 8. Use the original bolts and 14mm hardware from kit 860556.

**NOTE:** Drop brackets 176352 and 176406 must be installed with the angled end attached to the differential bracket and the welded gusset toward the front of the vehicle.

6) □ Attach drop brackets 176348 and 176406 to the passenger side frame and front differential assembly as shown in illustration 9. Use the original bolts and 14mm hardware from kit 860556.

7) □ Tighten the differential mounting bolts to 114 ft. lbs. Reconnect electrical connector and secure the vent hose.

8) □ Align reference marks and reattach the front driveshaft. Tighten the yoke retainer bolts to 19 ft. lbs.
9) Using a large screwdriver, **CAREFULLY** slide the CV boot on the front driveshaft 1/4” back toward the transfer case. See illustration 10. Rotate the driveshaft to slide the boot evenly.

**CAUTION:** An improperly adjusted boot will reduce the service life of the boot. Do not damage the CV boot.

4) Flip the sway bar over and rotate the clamps 180 degrees. Attach the sway bar to drop brackets 176403 and 176404 with the 10mm hardware from kit 860554. See illustration 11. Tighten nuts and bolts to 37 ft. lbs.

**NOTE:** DO NOT flip end links, ONLY sway bar is flipped left to right.

5) Reinstall the front skid plate.

**SWAY BAR DROP BRACKET INSTALLATION**

1) Remove the front skid plate.

2) Remove the insulator clamp bolts. Remove the sway bar.

3) Using the original bolts, attach drop bracket 176403 to the driver side frame rail and drop bracket 176404 to the passenger side frame rail. See illustration 11. Tighten bolts to 37 ft. lbs.

2) Attach front cross member 176346B to the lower control arm front mounts with the original hardware. See illustration 13. Tighten the bolts to 122 ft. lbs.

**CROSS MEMBER INSTALLATION**

1) To provide clearance for front cross member 176346B, file the corners in both lower control arm front mounts. See illustration 12. Remove sharp edges and paint exposed metal.
3) Using the 30mm length bolts, loosely attach rear cross member 176405B to the frame brackets with the 10mm hardware from kit 860556. See illustration 14. Use the shorter 10mm bolts (with a lock washer and USS washer installed) for the two inside locations.

4) Push up the cross member assembly. Tighten the 10mm bolts evenly to 40 ft. lbs.

**LOWER CONTROL ARM & BUMP STOP BRACKET INSTALLATION**

1) Loosely attach the passenger side lower control arm to the front and rear cross members. Use the 16mm hardware from kit 860556 for the front cross member and the original hardware for the rear.

2) Enlarge the hole in the bottom of the original bump stop frame bracket to 13/32”.

3) Attach right bump stop bracket 176408 to the bottom of the original frame bracket with the 10mm hardware from kit 860554. See illustration 15. Use the larger USS washer against the new bracket.

4) Using bracket 176408 as a template, mark the rear mounting hole location on the frame bracket. Drill a 31/64” hole at the marked location.

5) Install the 12mm hardware from kit 860554. Use the larger USS washer against the new bracket. Tighten nuts and bolts securely.

6) Insert original bump stop into bracket 176408.

7) Repeat steps 1 through 6 to install the driver side lower control arm and left bump stop bracket 176407. See illustration 16.

**STEERING KNUCKLE INSTALLATION**

1) Remove the ABS bracket bolt and the four hub bolts from the passenger side steering knuckle assembly. Remove the steering knuckle.

2) Clean bolt threads and apply thread lock. Carefully attach right steering knuckle 176412 to the hub and bearing assembly with the original bolts. See illustration 17. Tighten hub bolts to 92 ft. lbs.

3) Remove the ABS bracket. Attach the ABS wire to the knuckle with the loop strap (from hardware kit 860554) and original bolt.

4) Support the passenger side lower control arm with a jack stand.

5) Carefully install the knuckle assembly on the axle shaft and lower ball joint. Install the lower ball joint nut.
6) Insert the upper ball joint into the steering knuckle. Install the upper ball joint nut.

7) Tighten the lower ball joint nut to 107 ft. lbs. Tighten the upper ball joint nut and bolt to 55 ft. lbs.

8) Apply thread lock and install the washer and axle hub nut. Tighten the nut to 191 ft. lbs.

9) Rotate tie rod end 180 degrees and attach to steering knuckle. Tighten nut to 33 ft. lbs on the first pass. Tighten an additional 95 degrees using torque angle meter J 36660-A.

10) Loosen the jam nut on the tie rod end. Rotate the inner tie rod into the tie rod end three turns. Tighten the jam nut.

ATTENTION: Tie Rod may need to be trimmed to allow for proper Toe In adjustment. See Note after Recommended Alignment Specifications at end of instructions.

11) Set the spindle to fender height at 24.5 inches. Tighten the lower control arm rear bolt to 133 ft. lbs. Tighten the lower control arm front bolt to 122 ft. lbs.

12) Repeat steps 1 through 11 to install left steering knuckle 176411 on the driver side.

**Brake Hose Replacement**

1) Reattach the brake caliper with the original mounting bolts. Be sure to clean the bolt threads and apply thread lock. Tighten the caliper mounting bolts to 129 ft. lbs.

2) Disconnect brake line from brake hose at the frame bracket. Plug brake line to prevent fluid loss. Remove the retaining clip.

3) Remove bolt and gaskets from brake caliper. Remove brake hose. Do not reuse gaskets.

4) Attach new brake hose 170107 to the caliper with the supplied washers and original bolt. See illustration 18. Tighten bolt to 32 ft. lbs.

5) Insert brake hose through frame bracket. Install 9/16” USS washer from kit 860554 over fitting on top of bracket.

6) Remove plug and attach brake line to brake hose. While keeping the hose from turning, tighten the brake line fitting to 14 ft. lbs. Secure hose to bracket with the new E-type retaining clip.

7) Reconnect ABS electrical connector. Attach wire to upper control arm. Reinstall wheelhouse liner.

8) Repeat steps 1 through 7 for the other side.

9) Bleed front brakes per manufacturer’s recommendations.

**Shock Absorber & End Link Installation**

CAUTION: Do not use original shock absorbers.

1) Support the driver side lower control arm.

2) Install washer and bushing on shock absorber stud. Insert shock stud through upper mounting hole. Install bushing, washer and nut. See illustration 19. Tighten the upper nut to 22 ft. lbs.
3) □ Attach lower mount to the lower control arm bracket with the original hardware. Tighten the lower nut and bolt to 59 ft. lbs.

4) □ Reattach left sway bar end link to flipped sway bar. See illustration 20. Tighten nuts to 32 ft. lbs.

**NOTE:** DO NOT flip end links, ONLY sway bar is flipped left to right.

5) □ Repeat steps 1 through 4 to install the Rancho shock absorber and right end link on the passenger side.

**SKID PLATE INSTALLATION**

**NOTE:** Install the rubber washers from kit 860556 between the skid plate and cross members. Install two washers for each of the rear bolts and one for the front.

1) □ Using the 35mm length bolts, attach skid plate 176414 to the front and rear cross members with the 10mm hardware from kit 860556. Tighten the front bolt then the rear to 32 ft. lbs.

**AFT BRACE INSTALLATION**

1) □ Lubricate two bushings and one sleeve (from kit 860521) with a silicone spray. Press the bushings and sleeve into aft brace 176410B. See illustration 22.

2) □ Repeat step 1 to install the rest of the bushings and sleeves.

3) □ Loosely attach the aft braces to cross member 176405B with the hardware from kit 860522. Angle the aft braces slightly outward from front to rear.

4) □ Loosely attach the two aft brace brackets (176357) on top of the transmission cross member. See illustration 23. Insert sleeve 420061 into the existing hole and attach the brackets with the hardware from kit 860528.
5) Attach aft braces to brackets with the hardware from kit 860522. Tighten the bracket to cross member bolts then the aft brace bolts to 45 ft. lbs.

**TORSION BAR INSTALLATION**

1) Fully insert left torsion bar relocator 176353 into the driver side lower control arm. Align the hex opening as close to the original bushing as possible. See illustration 24. Transfer index mark to relocator.

2) Align mark on left torsion bar with mark on torsion bar relocator. Insert torsion bar into left relocator.

3) Align marks and install torsion bar arm. Refer back to illustration 2.

4) Install the adjuster bolt, spacer and adjuster nut. Tighten the adjuster bolt to its original height.

5) Repeat steps 1 through 4 to install right torsion bar relocator 176352 on the passenger side.

6) Install front wheels and lower vehicle to ground. Tighten the lug nuts to 103 ft. lbs.

**REAR SUSPENSION**

**SHOCK ABSORBER REMOVAL**

1) Chock front wheels. Raise the rear of the vehicle and support the frame with jack stands. Remove the rear wheels.

2) Support the rear axle assembly with a floor jack.

**CAUTION:** Do not allow the axle to hang by any hoses or cables.

3) Disconnect the rear differential vent hose from the frame.

4) Remove the shock absorber upper and lower mounting bolts and nuts. See illustration 25. Remove the shock absorber.

5) Repeat for the other side.
**BRAKE LINE BRACKET INSTALLATION**

1) □ Remove the mounting bolt for the brake hose at the rear differential bracket. See illustration 26.

![Illus. 26](image1)

2) □ Remove the brake hose bracket and mounting bolt.

3) □ Attach brake line bracket 170014 to the rear differential as shown in illustration 27. Use the 8mm bolt and washer from kit 860555.

![Illus. 27](image2)

4) □ Carefully reshape the brake lines and attach the rear brake hose to bracket 170014 with the 5/16” hardware from kit 860555. See illustration 27.

**BUMP STOP BRACKET INSTALLATION**

1) □ Remove the bolts attaching the rear bump stop to the frame rail. Remove the bump stop.

![Illus. 28](image3)

2) □ Place bump stop bracket 176409 on bump stop. Attach the bump stop assembly to the frame rail with the 10mm hardware from kit 860555. See illustration 29. Apply thread lock and tighten bolts to 27 ft. lbs. **Do not over tighten.**

3) □ Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the other side.

![Illus. 29](image4)

**LEAF SPRING BRACKET & SHACKLE INSTALLATION**

1) □ Loosen the leaf spring front and rear mounting bolts on both sides.

2) □ Disconnect the parking brake cable from the leaf spring. See illustration 30.
3) □ Remove the leaf spring front mounting bolt. See illustration 31.

4) □ Lower the axle and place leaf spring bracket 176399 over the original frame bracket. Using sleeve 420062, attach the bracket to the frame with the original hardware. See illustration 32.

**CAUTION:** Do not allow the axle to hang by any hoses or cables. Do not rest the driveshaft on the cross member.

5) □ Attach the front of bracket 176399 to the frame with the 12mm hardware and larger USS washers from kit 860555. Tighten the 12mm bolt to 55 ft. lbs then the 14mm bolt to 85 ft. lbs.

6) □ Loosely attach the leaf spring to bracket 176399 with the 14mm hardware from kit 860555.

7) □ If necessary, lower the spare tire. Remove the rear shackle mounting bolts. See illustration 33. Remove the shackle.

8) □ Using the original hardware, loosely attach rear shackle 176413 to the leaf spring and frame bracket. See illustration 34.

9) □ To reattach the parking brake cable, bend the leaf spring bracket slightly inward. Attach cable to bracket with the original bolt.
10) □ Repeat steps 2 through 9 for the other side.

**SHOCK ABSORBER INSTALLATION**

**NOTE:** Do not install the original shock absorbers.

1) □ Attach new Rancho shock absorber to upper mount with the original bolts. See illustration 35. Tighten bolts to 26 ft. lbs.

2) □ Attach new Rancho shock absorber to lower mount with the original hardware. Tighten nut and bolt to 70 ft. lbs.

3) □ Repeat for other side.

4) □ Install rear wheels and lower vehicle to ground. Tighten lug nuts to 103 ft. lbs.

5) □ Tighten the nut and bolt on the leaf spring front mount to 59 ft. lbs. on the first pass. Tighten the leaf spring shackle bolts to 63 ft. lbs.

6) □ Tighten the nut and bolt on the leaf spring front mount an additional 80 degrees using torque angle meter J 36660-A.

**FINAL CHECKS & ADJUSTMENTS**

1) □ Jounce suspension and move the vehicle to normalize ride height. Verify that the front spindle to fender height is 24.5” to 24.7” and that both sides are equal. If necessary, adjust the tension on the torsion bars to correct the height.

2) □ Turn the front wheels completely left then right. Verify adequate tire, wheel, and brake hose clearance. Inspect steering and suspension for tightness and proper operation.

3) □ Readjust headlamps. Have vehicle aligned at a certified alignment facility.

   **Recommended Alignment Specifications**
   - Caster (degrees): 4.6° ± 1.0°
   - Camber (degrees): 0° - .3°
   - Sum Toe In (degrees): 0° ± .2°

   **NOTE:** Tie Rod may need to be trimmed to allow proper Sum Toe In adjustment. If Required:
   1) Mark the location of the tie rod end on the tie rod. Remove tie rod end. Back the jam nut 1/4” inboard.

   2) □ Trim 3/16” – 1/4” from the end of the tie rod. See illustration 36 for details.

   3) □ Reinstall tie rod end. Secure jam nut against tie rod end.

   **Please retain this publication for future reference. See Important Note O.**