



**BLUE OX®**

**BX1986**

# 2009-12 Dodge Ram 1500 4 x 4 Installation Instructions

Serial Number

**Please read BOTH these Installation Instructions and the General Instructions before attempting to install or operate this equipment.**

1. Blue Ox® towing products and accessories are intended to be installed by Blue Ox® Dealers who are familiar with our products and have the equipment necessary and knowledge to do “fit work”. When necessary Blue Ox® Dealers can be found at [www.blueox.com](http://www.blueox.com) or by contacting our Customer Care Department at (402) 385-3051.
2. Many Blue Ox® Baseplates are designed to use existing holes and hardware to mount the baseplate to the towed vehicle. Even though bolts are there, do not assume they are adequate for baseplate mounting. Always use hardware supplied in the hardware kit and existing hardware specified in the Baseplate Installation Instructions.

Attachment Tab Height: 17”  
Attachment Tab Width: 34 1/2”

**Bolt Torque Specifications**  
Torque in Foot-Pounds for Metric Bolts

Bolt Size	Grade 8.8	Grade 10.9
6MM	6	8
8MM	16	22
10MM	31	40
12MM	54	70
14MM	89	117

Confirm the towability and pre-towing procedures for your vehicle with the owner’s manual or contact the vehicle’s manufacturer for specific towing procedures.

**Bolt Torque Specifications**  
Torque in Foot-Pounds for Inch Bolts

Bolt Size	Grade 5	Grade 8
1/4”	10	14
5/16”	19	29
3/8”	33	47
7/16”	54	78
1/2”	78	119
5/8”	154	230



**If the front of your vehicle looks different than these, call us at (402) 385-3051.**

**⚠ WARNING**

Failure to read and follow these instructions could result in separation of the towed vehicle from the tow bar, causing property damage, loss of towed vehicle, personal injury or death.



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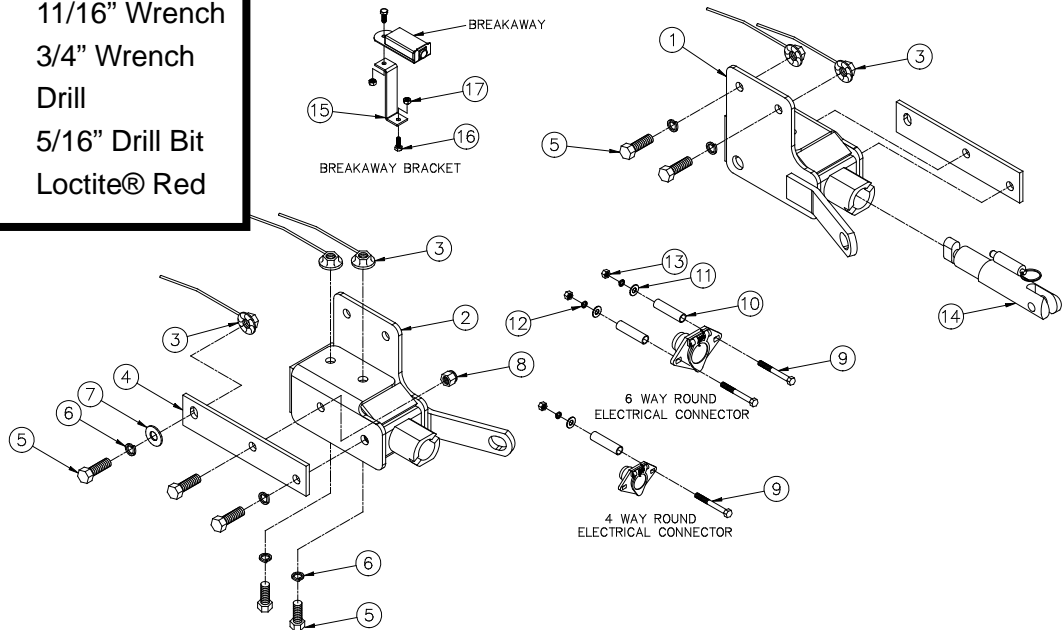
## 2009-12 Dodge Ram 1500 4 x 4 Installation Instructions

### Parts List

Ref. No.	Qty.	Part #	Description
1	1	61-6591	WLDM'T, BP, DS, BX1986
2	1	61-6592	WLDM'T, BP, PS, BX1986
3	10	61-4029	WELDMNT, 1/2 NUT WIRE COMMON
4	2	102-6951	SIDE MOUNT, BX1986
5	14	201-0051	1/2-13 X 1 1/2 HEX BOLT GRD.5, ZP
6	12	203-0012	1/2 LOCK WASHER, ZP
7	2	203-0005	1/2 FLAT WASHER, ZP
8	2	202-0094	1/2-13 HEX NYL. INS. LOCK NUT, ZP
9	2	201-0460	5/16-18 X 3 HEX BOLT, GRADE 5
10	2	107-3077	TUBE, 1/2 OD. X 18GA. W X 2"
11	2	203-0002	5/16 FLAT WASHER, ZP
12	2	203-0009	5/16 LOCK WASHER, ZP
13	2	202-0002	5/16-18 HEX NUT, ZP
14	2	62-3468	ATT TAB ASSY, REM, SF/SB, 1 HOLE
15	1	102-7116	BREAKAWAY BRKT, BX1986
16	2	201-0050	1/4-20 X 3/4 HEX BOLT GRD.5, ZP
17	2	202-0102	1/4-20 HEX NYL NUT, ZP
	2	226-0049	BASEPLATE SAFETY CABLE, 36" CL IV (NS)
	2	229-0512	QUICKLINK, 1/2, ZP (Not Shown)
	2	290-0437	RECEIVER, CAP PLUG (BLK) (Not Shown)

### Tools Required

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 10MM Socket      | 11/16" Wrench   |
| 3/4" Socket      | 3/4" Wrench     |
| Large Vise Grips | Drill           |
| 1-1/4" Hole Saw  | 5/16" Drill Bit |
| 17/32" Drill Bit | Loctite® Red    |



### Important:

Use only genuine factory replacement parts on your baseplate. Do NOT substitute homemade or non-typical parts. If a bolt is lost or in need of replacement, for your safety and the preservation of your baseplate, be sure to use a replacement bolt of the same grade (In most cases it will be Grade 5, please reference the parts list above). Replacement parts may be ordered through your nearest Blue Ox® Dealer or Distributor, or call our Customer Care Team at (402)385-3051. Failing to follow and/or altering these installation instructions in either installation or required equipment will void the manufacturer's warranty. Towing behind a non-motorized vehicle will void the warranty.



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#### Removable Tab

Due to the design of the removable tabs, the RangeFinderII and Ambassador tow bars can not be used. Adapters, except the BX8833 and BX88151, can not be used with this baseplate.

#### Instructions

The lower plastic bumper, air dam, bolts and push pins are removed and reinstalled for the baseplate installation. Trimming is required. Drilling is required. The tow hooks must be removed and remain off the vehicle after installation.

The dimensional variations between otherwise identical vehicles can be considerable. While the baseplate was designed for easy installation, it may be necessary to tailor the baseplate slightly to compensate for auto manufacturer's tolerances. These minor adjustments may include filing a hole slightly, bending electrical rods or bending end plates.

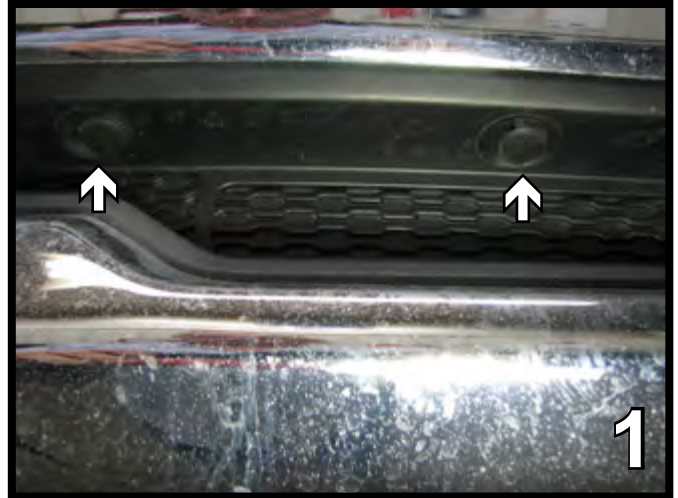
The BX8869, Bulb and Socket Wiring Kit is recommended for this vehicle.



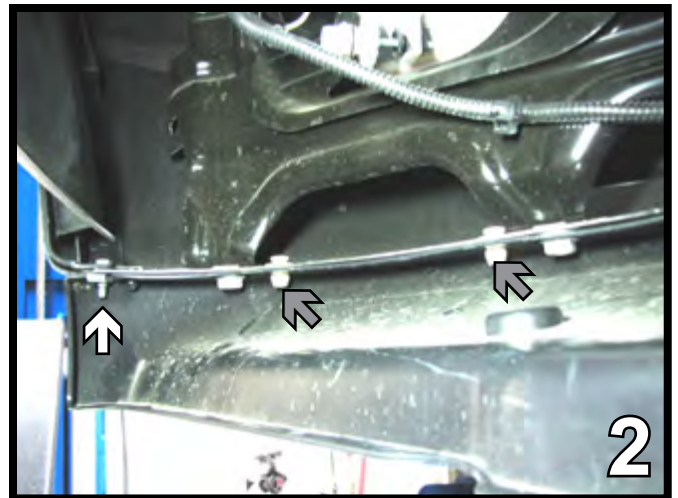
Possible Location of the BX8869 Bulb & Socket Wiring Kit

Handling of some cosmetic parts when installing this product may require the use of protective covers, rags, specialty tools, etc. to prevent damage.

#### Installation Instructions



1. Remove the six push pins along the top in the front, this will allow the plastic piece to be removed. Set the plastic piece and the push pins aside to be reinstalled later.



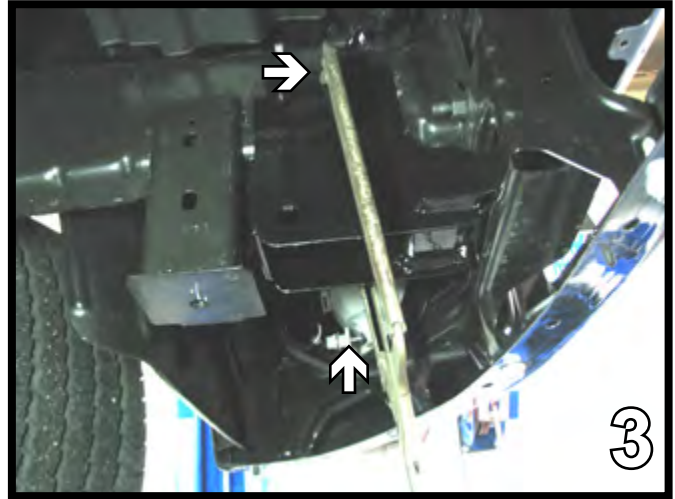
2. Prepare to remove the lower air dam underneath the bumper by using a 10MM socket to take out the bolt in each corner (white arrow). Remove 13 push pins all the way across (gray arrows). Set the lower air dam, bolts and push pins aside to be reinstalled later.



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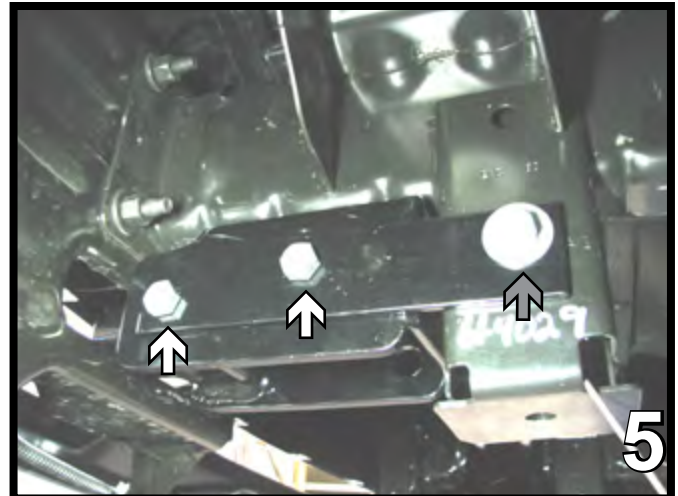
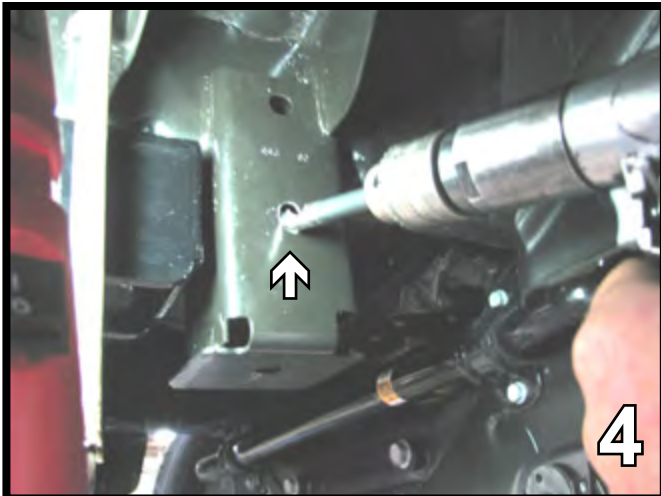
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3. Only if equipped with tow hooks: With a 17MM socket remove the back bolt and washer (grey arrow). Remove the two (2) bolts by the bracket (white arrow). Slide the bracket off and remove tow hook and retighten bolts. Do this on both sides of the vehicle.

4. Tip the baseplate at an angle, slide it in and clamp.



5. Using a 17/32" drill bit, drill out the existing hole.

6. Dry fit three 1/2 x 1 1/2" bolts on the side into the baseplate. Do this on both sides.

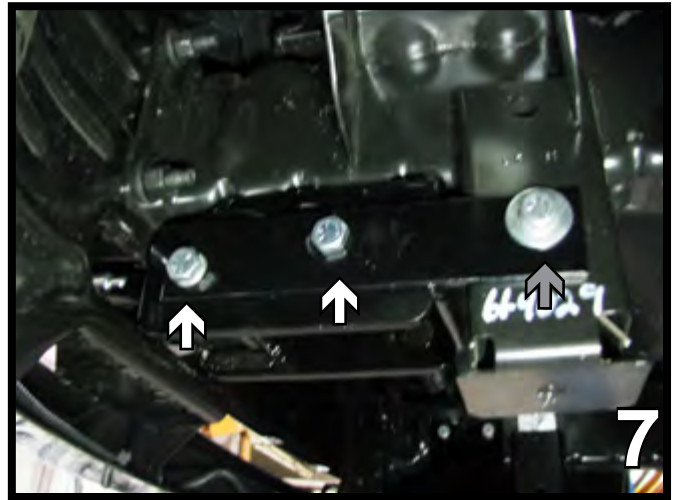
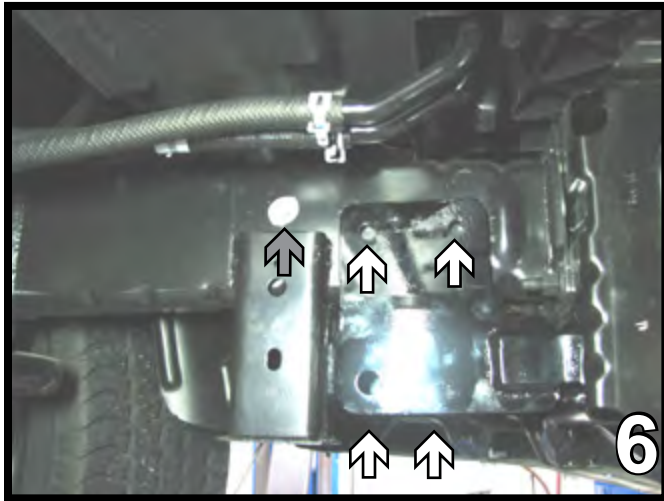
When using power drills be aware of the dangers of torque and drill bit length.



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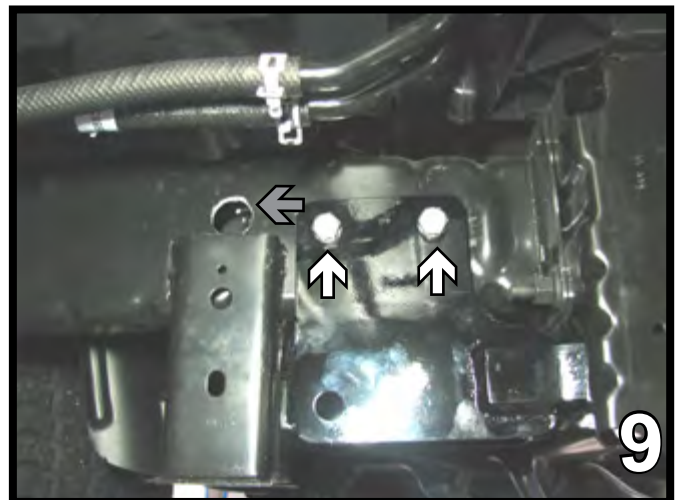
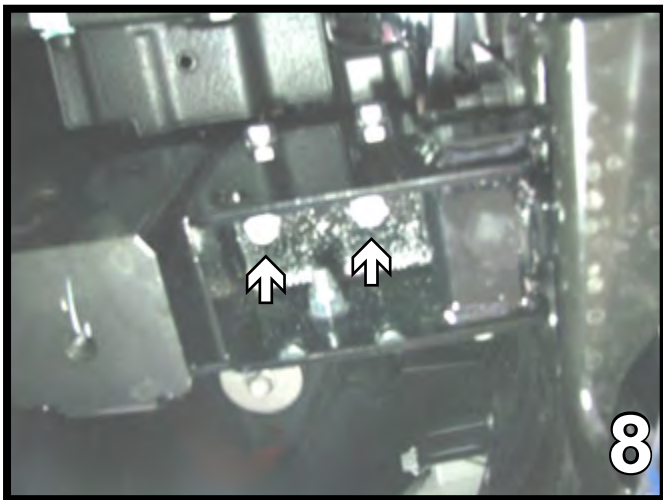
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7. Using the baseplate as a template, drill two holes up into the bottom of the frame using a 17/32" bit. Continuing to use the baseplate as a template, drill the two upper holes with a 17/32" bit. Drill a hole above the bracket using a 1 1/4" hole saw (gray arrow The wire nuts will be inserted into this hole.) Do this on both sides of the vehicle.

8. Attach a 1/2" lock washer with the outside bolts. On the back bolt, use a 1/2" flat washer and a 1/2" wire nut (gray arrow). Attach a 1/2" nylon nut to the middle bolt. Do this on both sides. Use Loctite Red on all bolts.



9. Underneath insert 1/2-13 x 1 1/2" bolts with 1/2" lock washers and 1/2" wire nuts. Do this on both sides. Use Loctite Red on all bolts.

10. On the upper side, use 1/2-13 x 1 1/2" bolts with 1/2" lock washers and 1/2" wire nuts inserted into the frame. Use Loctite Red on all bolts. Put a 2" piece of tape over the drilled hole to cover it (gray arrow). Do this on both sides.

**BE SURE TO USE LOCTITE® RED ON ALL BOLTS BEFORE TIGHTENING. TIGHTEN ALL BOLTS ACCORDING TO THE TORQUE CHART ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS OR ON PAGE 3 OF THE BASEPLATE TOWING GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.**



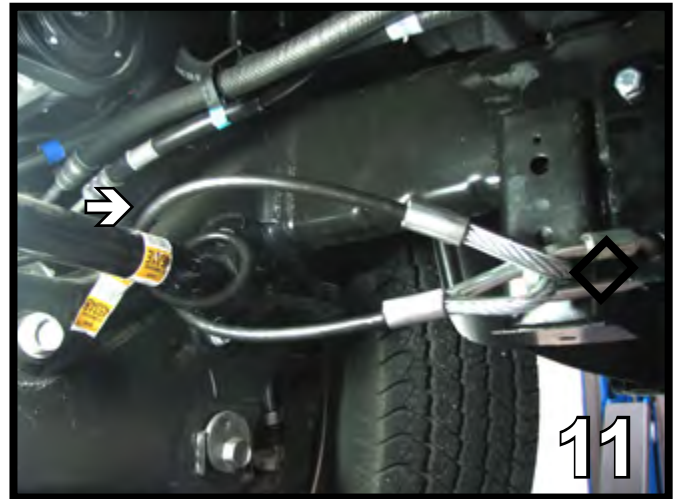
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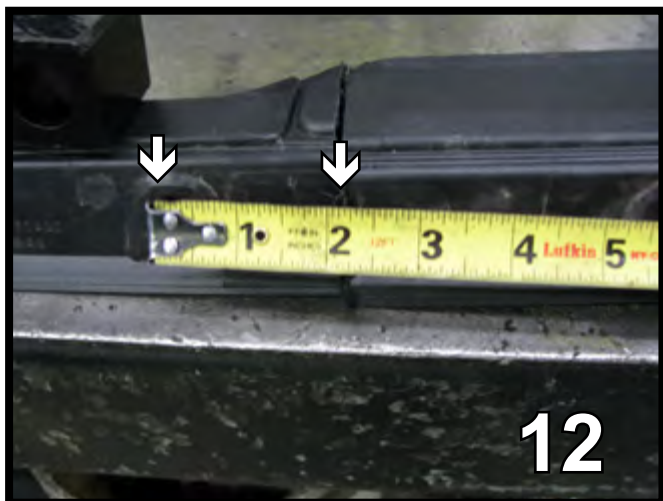
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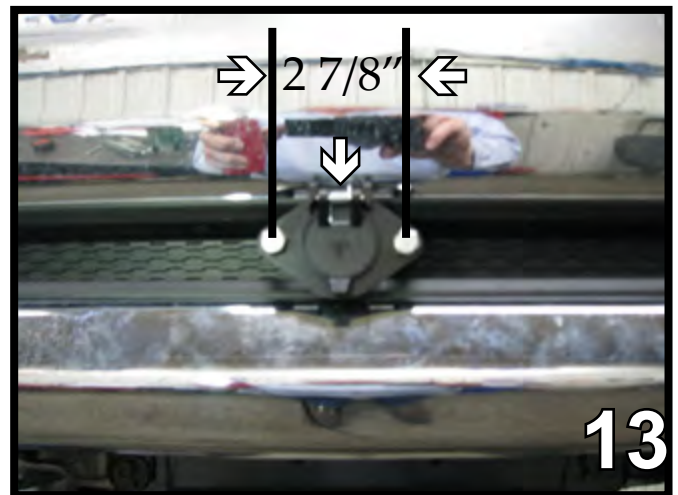
11. Reinstall the lower plastic bumper. There are three holes in the plastic where the breakaway bracket can be attached using a 1/4-20 x 3/4" bolt with a 1/4-20 nut. Attach the breakaway to the top of the bracket also with a 1/4-20 x 3/4" bolt and a 1/4-20 nut.



12. Attach the permanent baseplate safety cables to the provided convenience link on the baseplate (see grey arrow). The photo above shows the recommended installation of the cables to frame of vehicle (see white arrow). Additional options may interfere with suggested mounting; in this case secure the cables to a solid piece of the frame as described in the instructions included with the permanent baseplate safety cables. Be sure the safety cables do not rub against any hoses or moving parts. Do this to both sides of the vehicle.



13. On the lower air dam, measure 2" out from the second hole and cut apart. Do this on both sides. Reattach the lower air dam, the plastic bumper and reconnect the plug. If your vehicle is equipped with tow hooks, you will not need to trim the air dam.



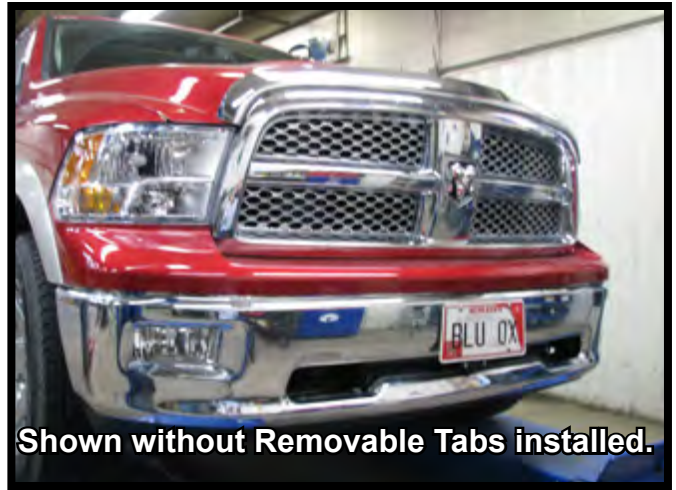
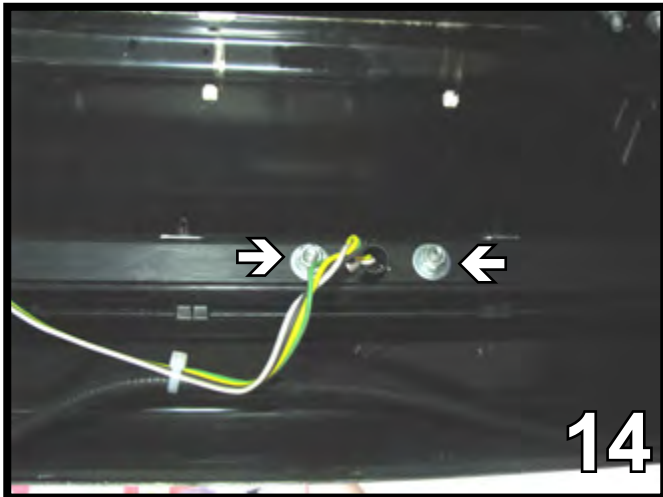
14. Center the electrical connector and mark the location of the plastic insert. Using the 1 1/4" hole saw drill a hole. Drill two 5/16" holes centered with the 1 1/4" hole to mount the electrical connector. The holes on the electrical connector will need to be reamed out.



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Shown without Removable Tabs installed.



Shown with Removable Tabs Installed.



2011 Shown with Removable Tabs installed

- 15. Attach the electrical connector with 5/16 x 3" bolts to 2" tubes, 5/16" flat washers and 5/16" nuts on the back side of the plastic insert.

Install the tow bar and safety cables according to the instructions included in their packages.

Do not substitute other devices if the tow bar pin and clip are lost.

**DEALER OR INSTALLER:** BE CERTAIN THE USER RECEIVES THE INSTRUCTION SHEETS.

If the baseplate is in an accident, it must be replaced. **DO NOT** use it again! An accident can cause unseen damage and using it again could result in more damage or serious injury. **DO NOT** use the baseplate if it is damaged or missing parts.

**DEALER or INSTALLER:**  
Be certain the user receives the instruction sheets for their products.

Be sure that **ALL** electrical connections are plugged in properly and functioning **BEFORE** installing the fascia.



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**CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITMENT**

Blue Ox is committed to providing you with exceptional customer care throughout your lifetime with our products. Our team is here to assist you with any questions you may have regarding the performance of your product. Simply call (402) 385-3051 and you can speak with our customer care team.

Additionally, please visit our website to see which rallies our Destination America team will be attending. For a nominal fee, our service technician will service your towing system to ensure it's in proper working condition. Also as a commitment to our customers, should you visit our factory you can stay at our full service Blue Ox campground at no charge along with enjoying a factory tour.

Again thank you for being our customer and for the confidence you have shown in the performance of our products. It is because of customers like you we enjoy the success we have today.



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