



## How to replace your headlight bulbs

All headlights dim over time. And you definitely don't want to drive at night with two headlights that have uneven or mismatched intensity. It's distracting to you and to oncoming traffic. So consider replacing left and right headlight bulbs at the same time.

Installing a new headlight bulb is easy, assuming there isn't too much blocking your access. Some cars have a few parts—like a windshield washer fluid tank or a battery—which sit in the way of the headlight. If this is the case for your vehicle, check your owner's manual for instructions, as you might have to remove a few things to make room to work.

### What you'll need

- **Replacement bulbs**
- **Safety glasses**
- **Latex gloves**

### Safety precautions

- Whenever you work on your car, make sure the engine is off, the car is in park or gear and the key is removed from the ignition.
- Put on latex gloves and safety glasses before starting any work.
- Never touch the bulb itself; always handle it by the base.

There are three basic types of bulb installations: the screw-in (which is the most common type), the retaining-clip and the retaining-ring.

### Screw-in installation

1. Grab the bulb base, give it a counterclockwise twist and remove.
2. Unplug the socket from the bulb by lifting the little catch, and pull the socket out.
3. Plug the socket back in. Notice how the bulb base has these little ears on it that fit into little slots in the headlight assembly. You'll need to line these up when you put the new bulb in.
4. Push the new bulb into the headlight assembly, and twist clockwise.

### Retaining-clip installation

1. As described above, unplug the socket.
2. Grab the clip right here, lift and pull. Then, pull the bulb out of the headlight like last time, insert the new bulb, snap the clip closed and plug your socket back in.

### Retaining-ring installation

1. Begin the same way, by unplugging the socket. Then, instead of twisting out the bulb, twist out the entire retaining ring. Just grab the ring, twisting it counterclockwise, and pull it out.
2. Now grab the bulb by its base, and pull it straight out.
3. Insert the new bulb into the headlight assembly, screw the retaining ring back on—making sure it's tight—and plug the socket back in.

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