

Materials:

Auto-dimming-mirror installation kit, including wiring harness and probe

Screwdriver, Phillips head

Wire cutter and crimping tool

1. As with any project that involves the car's electrical system, begin by disconnecting the vehicle's negative battery cable for safety and to avoid damage.
2. Remove the old rear-view mirror and clip from the windshield.
3. Remove the sun visors using a Phillips screwdriver, and remove the driver-side windowsill trim.
4. The plug that controls and supplies power to the mirror hangs from a wire that extends from beneath the headliner. Run the wiring harness -- which includes the power cable, compass-probe connection, thermostat probe connection and auto-dimming wire -- from the mirror-mounting location, up underneath the headliner and beneath the windowsill trim.
5. Connect the wiring as specified in the manufacturer's instructions. One wire will connect to a ground, another is the power line and connects via the fuse box to the ignition, and a third connects to the backup-lamp circuit for the vehicle. The latter connection serves to automatically disengage the auto-dimming feature when the vehicle is in reverse gear.
6. A fourth line will need to run beneath the dash and through a grommet in the firewall. This cable leads to the external temperature and compass probe that mounts beneath the vehicle.
7. With the cable leading through the firewall, run and secure the outside extension along the side of the engine compartment, through the inner fender well and headlight bezel, and finally down to an area beneath the front bumper. Secure the end of the probe extension to a spot where it doesn't interfere with moving parts, where there will be air flow, and so that the probe is not too close to the radiator. (The heat from the radiator would cause the probe to give a false reading.) Behind an opening in the front air dam may be a good spot.
8. Plug the mirror into the connection hanging from the headliner, and install the mirror on its clip.
9. Attach the temperature/compass probe to the end of the extension and clip the probe in place. A small amount of grease around the flexible gasket of the probe will help weatherproof the probe.
10. Reconnect the vehicle battery and test the mirror.