

Car Stereo Installation Checklist

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Before Installation

- Confirm the exact year, make, model and factory audio system.
- Obtain the correct dash kit, wire harness, interface, antenna adapter and retention adapters.
- Read the receiver, interface and vehicle-specific instructions.
- Confirm battery-disconnection and security-code requirements.
- Gather the multimeter, electronic probe, trim tools, crimp/solder supplies, tape, heat shrink and wire ties.

During Wiring

- Disconnect the negative battery terminal.
- Match every connection by function rather than color alone.
- Verify constant power, accessory power and ground before connecting the receiver.
- Use secure crimped or soldered connections and fully insulate each joint.
- Cap every unused conductor individually.
- Keep wiring clear of sharp edges, pedals, steering components and HVAC controls.

Before Reassembly

- Inspect the receiver's fuse and all vehicle fuses related to the radio system.
- Test receiver power, memory and all four speaker channels.
- Test front-left, front-right, rear-left and rear-right RCA channels when used.
- Test factory amplifier integration and blue/white remote turn-on.
- Test steering-wheel controls, antenna reception, USB retention and backup camera operation.
- Test illumination, dimmer, parking-brake and reverse inputs when used.
- Confirm there are no warning lights, error messages or abnormal vehicle functions.

Final Inspection

- Secure excess wiring without crushing connectors or blocking ventilation.
- Confirm the receiver and dash kit lock securely into place.
- Reconnect the negative battery terminal.
- Test every function again before installing the final dashboard panels.
- Save the wiring diagrams, interface instructions and programming notes.
- Record any custom wiring changes for future service.

Safety note: Do not probe unknown data-bus or supplemental-restraint-system wiring. Use correct vehicle information and a high-impedance digital meter or approved electronic probe.