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# Instructions for Installing a T1N 2002-2006 Sprinter Van Engine Skid Plate

Installing an engine skid plate on your 2002-2006 T1N Sprinter Van is a great way to protect the oil pan, transmission, and other critical components from road debris, rocks, and off-road hazards. Follow these step-by-step instructions to install the skid plate properly and ensure a secure fit.

#### **Tools & Materials Needed:**

- T1N Sprinter-compatible skid plate (2002-2006)
- Mounting hardware (usually included with the skid plate)
- Socket set (metric sizes: 10mm, 13mm, 15mm, 17mm depending on the skid plate model)
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Jack and jack stands (or vehicle ramps)
- Screwdriver or trim tool (if needed to remove any existing panels)
- Safety glasses and gloves

#### **Preparation:**

#### 1. Park Safely:

- Park the Sprinter on a flat, level surface.
- Engage the parking brake.
- Turn off the engine and let it cool down before working underneath.

#### 2. Raise the Vehicle:

- Use a jack to lift the front of the van.
- Secure the van with jack stands or use vehicle ramps for added safety.
- Ensure the van is stable before crawling underneath.

#### 3. Inspect the Underside:

o Identify the mounting points for the skid plate. These are usually factory-drilled holes or existing bolt locations on the vehicle's frame or crossmembers.

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#### **Installation Steps:**

#### **Step 1: Remove Any Obstructions**

- If there's an existing plastic splash guard or cover, use a screwdriver or socket to remove it.
- Retain any factory bolts that can be reused.

#### Step 2: Align the Skid Plate

- Position the skid plate under the engine bay.
- Line up the mounting holes on the skid plate with the existing holes or brackets on the van's frame.

#### **Step 3: Secure the Skid Plate**

- Insert the provided bolts through the skid plate into the mounting points.
- Hand-tighten all bolts to ensure proper alignment before fully tightening.

#### **Step 4: Tighten Bolts Properly**

- Using the ratchet wrench, tighten all bolts in place.
- Refer to the skid plate manufacturer's instructions for torque specifications. If none are provided, a general guideline is:

M8 bolts: 18-22 ft-lbsM10 bolts: 35-40 ft-lbs

Use a torque wrench to ensure all bolts are evenly torqued.

#### **Step 5: Double-Check Clearance**

- Check around the skid plate to ensure it's not making contact with the oil pan, exhaust system, or steering components.
- Make sure there's adequate clearance for oil drain plugs if you plan to change the oil without removing the skid plate.

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#### **Final Checks:**

- 1. Lower the Vehicle:
  - Safely remove the jack stands and lower the van back to the ground.
- 2. Test Drive:
  - Take the van for a short test drive, listening for any unusual noises or rattling that may indicate loose hardware.
- 3. Recheck Bolts:
  - After the test drive, recheck all mounting bolts and re-torque if necessary.

#### **Maintenance Tips:**

- Periodically inspect the skid plate for damage, especially after off-road trips.
- Check mounting bolts during regular oil changes to ensure they remain secure.
- Clean the skid plate occasionally to remove built-up mud or debris.

#### Safety Note:

Always prioritize safety when working under the vehicle. If you're unsure about any step, consult a professional mechanic for assistance.

By following these instructions, your T1N Sprinter Van will have enhanced protection, making it more durable for off-road adventures or rugged driving conditions.