

How to replace the upper window seals on a 1978-87 El Camino

Items needed:

Door Panel removal tool

Screwdriver – both Phillips and Straight

Weatherstrip Adhesive

New door window seals

IMPORTANT NOTE BEFORE YOU BEGIN: the replacement involves minor adjustments to the window mechanism itself! Over time the window regulator will fall out of adjustment and cause the window to shift away from its optimal alignment.

First, start off by taking a look at the way the window is currently aligned in the gasket and at how the gasket is seated in the frame.





Next, you need to take out the old seal along with all remnants of it from the frame. Notice how it has channels which hold it in place? It is easiest to use a tool designed for panel removal to pry away the hooks holding on to the body.



Now, slowly work your way around the window channel and pull away all of the old seal material. Clean up the rest of the material left behind due to the old adhesive. Take your time and it should simply peel off. Use a screwdriver to clean out the grooves in the upper channels.



Once you have all of the old material off, verify you have the correct new seals by placing one up to the window channel. If you are using the correct side you can proceed.

One of the easiest ways to install the new seal is to start at the top first. Put the adhesive along the top channel and get it centered from front to back and insert the inner most groove first. Work your way along the outside groove slowly to get the seal centered from front to back and installed inside and out.



Once you have the top section in, you can work your way down either the front or the back following the inner and outer channels. At the end, place your screws / rivets in their perspective holes.

Take your time - It will come out right.



Now that the new seal is in place... close the door with the window all of the way up. This will show which way the window may need to be adjusted.

If adjustments are needed, there are two primary places I would suggest to start. One is the front height restriction plate and the second is the rear. These get pushed up over time as the old seals become worn and as the regulator continues to contact the height restriction over and over again.



To get to those adjustments remove the upper door panel.

Unscrew the lock pull, take off the covers to the door pull straps and remove the screws holding the door strap pull to the door itself.

Using the door panel removal tool again- pop off the two panel clips holding on the panel, one in the front and one in the rear.



Once those are loose, just push the panel towards the outside of the door and pull up.

Now you have access to the adjustment screws. Start by lowering each of them about the same amount – maybe a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch – and then close the door to see how the window lines up with the new seals.



Taking your time, adjust the way the window stops and what is controlling the movement. You will be able to make the window open and close correctly as long as your door is in alignment.

That's it. Once you are happy with the result, just put everything back together in the reverse order.