

WHEEL WELL LIGHTING

Tips & Tricks

Installing LED lights in the wheel wells of vehicles can be a little tricky. Here are some tips and tricks we've found helpful in our installations.

Choosing the Mounting Location

Where you mount the LED strip in the wheel well matters particularly if you're using our low profile LED strips. Generally speaking you want to avoid mounting the strip directly in line with the tire. This will help keep the LED strip out of the 'line of fire' from rocks, road debris, etc that could be kicked up by the tires. Our first choice is to mount the strip as close the fender outer edge as we can with the led strip angled slightly in towards the tire. This assumes you can't see the edge of the LED strip by mounting it in this location. If that location isn't available, we will mount the LED strip further in the wheel well on the other side of the tire but not too far that the LED strip can be seen from outside the wheel well.

Note too we generally only install LED strips at the very top of the arc of the wheel well vs covering the full arc. The reason is that a) it provides a nice straight down glow without being able to see the LED strip itself and b), it reduces the likelihood of road debris being thrown from the tire and hitting the LED strip directly.

The Mounting Surface

If you're lucky, the inside of the wheel well will have a smooth, flat surface of plastic or metal. In these cases you can usually mount the LED strip directly to that surface (although you still may need to remove the wheel to gain access to the mounting location.)

If the mounting surface is a felt material (common in cars and pickup trucks), it becomes a little more challenging since you cannot mount the LED strip directly to that felt material. Here are the options for these installations (in our order of preference):

1. Cut out the felt material and install the LED light directly to the surface beneath the felt. This works well if that felt material and the underlying surface are connected to each other or very close together. It works too for both our Low Profile and Heavy Duty LED strips. If however there is a gap between the two surfaces, it's not a good idea since that felt material is likely going to a) block some of the light impacting the overall look and b) will move enough that it will eventually damage the LED strip by constantly rubbing against it.
2. Mount the LED strip to some flexible plastic flat stock and then mount that assembly to the felt inside the wheel well using wire and/or zip ties. In some cases, we'll even screw or rivet that plastic flat stock to the underlying service. This will work for both our Low Profile led strips and our Heavy Duty LED strips.
3. Mount the LED strip directly to the felt material using zip ties. This ONLY works for our Heavy Duty LED strips. Using zip ties to hold our Low Profile LED strips to the felt will damage the LED strip and cause it to fail prematurely.