

Instructions for removing Saab 9-4X taillight assembly (Left or Right)

1. Open tailgate, observe:
 - a. Black plastic cover in the “ditch” between the taillight and opening – you will need to remove this cover (one on each side of the car).
 - b. Thick black rubber gasket around the tailgate opening (on the body). – you will need to move this gasket out of the way to get the black plastic cover off.
2. Pull the thick black rubber gasket off the body (just pull straight out towards you). Don't pull the whole gasket off, just enough to release the black plastic cover – a few inches above and below the cover.
3. Wrap the tip of a large flat-blade screwdriver with electrical tape – you will be using this as a prying tool and the tape is to prevent damage to the paint.
4. Insert the screwdriver from the top down behind the black plastic cover and twist/pry gently to pop loose the clips holding the black plastic cover into the plastic taillight.
 - a. Note: there are three clips which consist of plastic tabs sticking straight out of the back of the cover. Each has a barbed metal clip which snaps into a rectangular opening in the plastic taillight housing. The idea is to get the tip of the prying tool as close as possible to the tab and gently twist/pry to snap the clip out. You can also go in from the side (towards the tailgate opening) and bottom of the cover to reach the clips. You will need to push, pull, and wiggle to get the clips to pop free.
 - b. Don't worry if one (or even 2) of the tabs break. The cover is held in place by the gasket and can be secured with double-sided tape if needed.
5. Once the black plastic cover is removed, the two Phillips head screws which secure the taillight assembly will be exposed. Remove the 2 screws.
6. Pull the taillight assembly directly rearward to disengage the locating pins at the front end of the taillight assembly from the plastic mounts in the body. IMPORTANT: The taillight must be pulled straight back! If you twist it sideways, you risk the front “point” of the lens hitting the body and breaking. Considerable wiggling may be needed – sometimes the pins stick in the plastic mounts (two pairs of hands can help). It's not a problem if the plastic mounts pop out of the body with the taillight, you can pull it off the taillight and push it back into the hole in the body.
7. Disconnect the electrical connector by releasing the clip and pulling the connector apart.
8. To re-install the taillight assembly, connect the electrical connector (push the two halves together until the clip engages), insert the locating pin into the plastic mount, and reinstall the 2 screws. Snap the black plastic cover back into place and press the thick black rubber gasket back into place on the metal flange.

Note that you will use this same procedure when you need to change a brake light bulb or turn signal bulb – they mount into the back of the taillight and the taillight assembly must be removed in order to change them.