



Chevy Avalanche Softopper Installation Instructions

Please read instructions thoroughly before starting installation.



****Remove all contents of the Softopper carefully to protect from scratches.**
Windows scratch easily! Keep protective layer placed between them when they are stacked.**

Estimated Installation Time: 1 hour

Beginning Note: It is easiest to do the initial installation in warmer temperatures. The fabric of the top is at its tightest when it is new. Installing it in warmer temperatures initially will ensure that the fabric is easier to work with. The fabric of the top will relax slightly with time and become easier to put on.

****Safety Notes****

Please read the following before driving with the Softopper installed:

1. It is highly recommended that a boot cover/storage bag (sold separately) is used when the topper is in its retracted position. This will prevent the top from catching in the wind and extend the longevity of the soft top.
2. DO NOT rely in any way on the soft top to contain occupants or objects within the vehicle bed, or to protect against injury or death in the event of an accident or a roll-over.
3. This top will not protect the occupants or objects from falling or flying objects. Never operate vehicle in excess of manufacturer's recommendations or specifications.

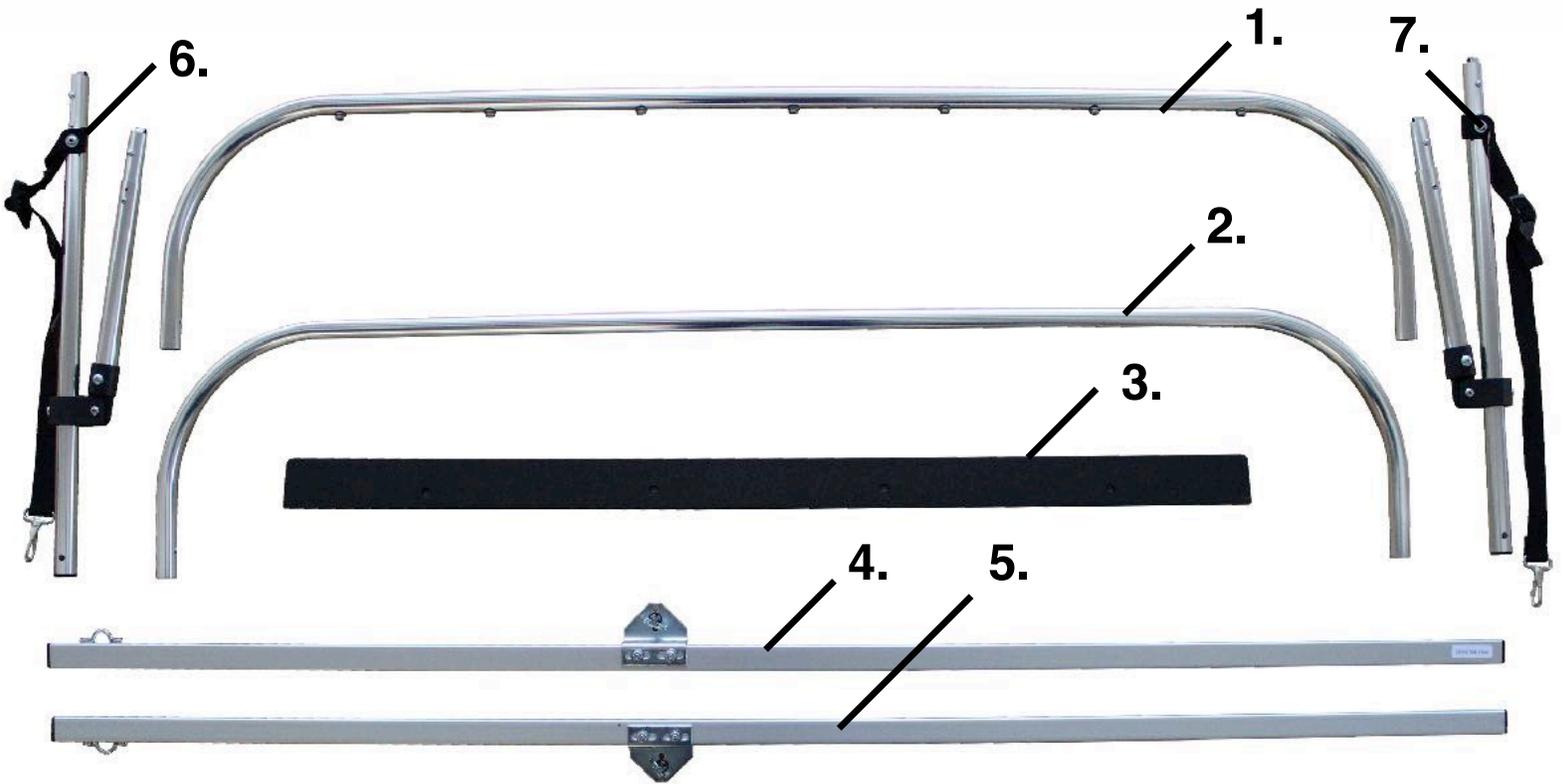
Tools needed for installation:

- Torx T-30 Key or Driver
- #2 Phillips screwdriver
- #3 Phillips Screwdriver
- 9/16" Wrench or Socket
- Drill
- #2 Phillips Drill Bit
- Pencil or Marker
- 1/8" Drill Bit

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Your Softopper Includes the Following Pieces



- 1. Rear Crossbar**
- 2. Front Crossbar**
- 3. Header Bar**
- 4. Driver Side Bedrail**
- 5. Passenger Side Bedrail**
- 6. Driver Side Folding Frame Upright**
- 7. Passenger Side Folding Frame Upright**
- 8. Kit Box (Not Depicted Above)**
- 9. Softopper Canopy (Not Depicted Above)**

Header Bar Installation

****Note**** Driver side depicted in all photos and illustrations throughout instructions. Also, colored instructions are available on our website, softopper.com, under “Installation Instructions”.

1. Locate the Torx T-30 tool provided in the kit box.
2. From standing inside the truck bed, remove the four T-6 bolts that secure the plastic molding at the rear of the on the roof of the vehicle. Keep the bolts in a safe place.
3. Locate the black header bar, the small bag in the kit box containing screws and washers, and a #3 Phillips screwdriver.
4. Orient the header bar such that the holes are toward the rear. Place 6 washers underneath the bar at each of the 4 bolt locations.
5. Place the header bar over the washers and secure the 4 provided Phillips screws. Once installed, there should be a small gap between the header bar and the plastic molding. Note: in the bottom photo to the right, the plastic molding is not black.



Bedrail Installation

1. Using the Torx T-30 key, remove the T-6 bolt from each of the black triangular parts at the rear of the vehicle's truck box. Keep the bolts in a safe place.
2. Locate the 2 black metal plates in the kit box, the two 80mm bolts with black knobs, and 2 washers.
3. Attach the black metal plates to the vehicle using the knobs and one washer on each plate. Make sure the outer edge of each plate is resting on top of the vehicle's side rail as shown. Note: this plate holds the box down and keeps it from rattling when the Softopper canopy is installed.
4. Locate the driver side bedrail. There is a sticker which designates the driver side front of the bedrail.



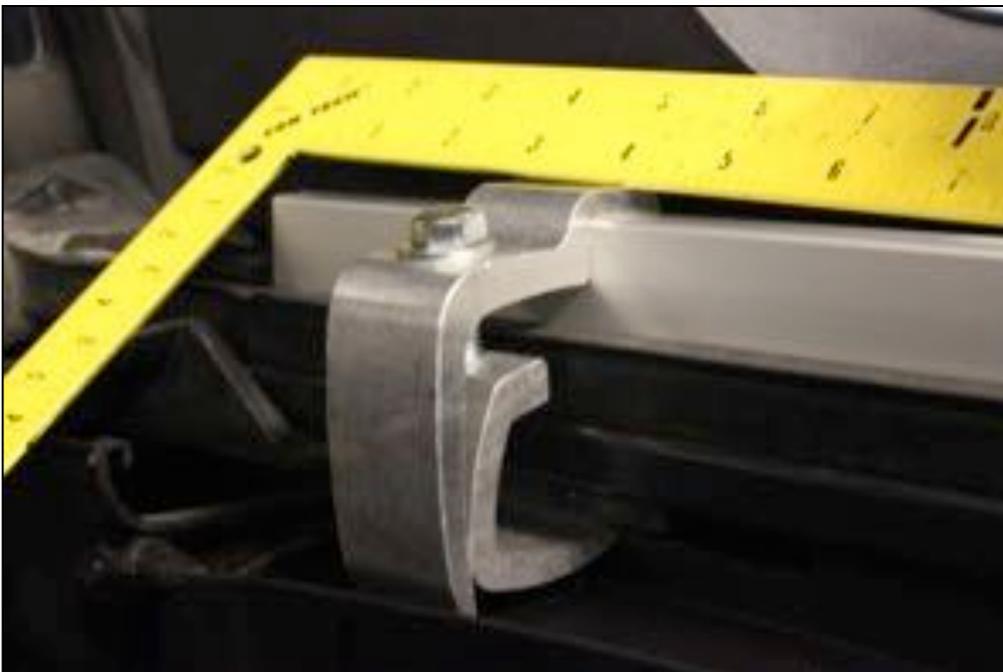
5. Place the driver side bedrail atop the side of the truck bed side rail just inside the black side boxes. The metal pivot bracket towards the center of the bedrail should point upward.



- Align the bedrails (front to back) so that the rear of the bedrail is flush with the rear most portion of the metal bracket on the vehicle's rear corners as shown. Align the bedrails (side to side) about 1/2" out from the inner edge of the truck bed side wall.



- Locate the 4 clamps and a 9/16" socket wrench.
- Placement of the clamps should be approximately 3-4 inches back from the front of each bedrail, and 8 1/2 inches forward from the rear of each bedrail. Clamp placement may vary depending on the year of the vehicle.
- Using a 9/16" wrench or socket, snugly fasten the clamp bolts until the bedrail is not able to shift. Do not over tighten.



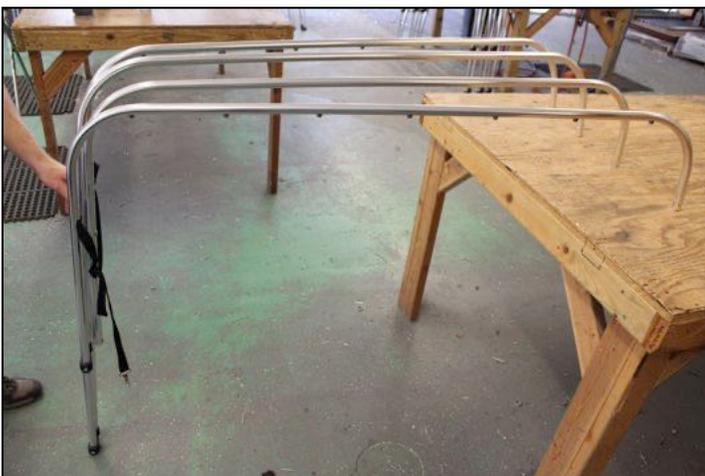
Folding Frame Assembly and Installation

1. Locate the 2 Cross Bars and the 2 Folding Frame Uprights (4 depicted).



2. Also locate the 2 crossbar straps in the kit box. They are several feet long and have buckles. Place the sewn loop end of each strap onto the crossbar that has the snaps on it.
3. Join the 2 cross bars to the 2 folding frame uprights by coordinating the **COLORED DOTS** provided on the pieces and ensuring the push pins are locked into their holes.

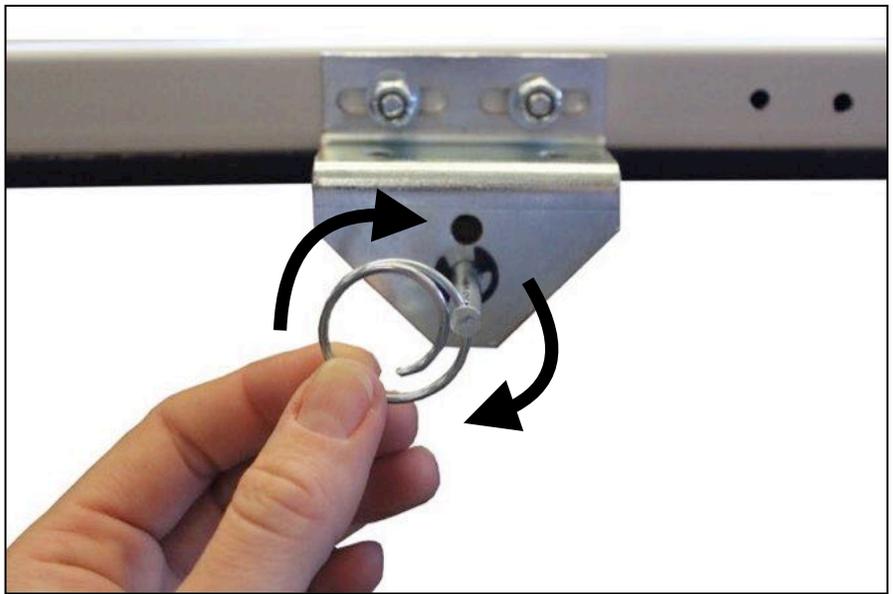
****Important: Keep fingers clear of the sharp, metal junction where the cross bars will meet the folding frame when clipping them together. Injury is likely if fingers get pinched.**



4. ****Tip: It helps to stand the folding frame uprights up, and with another person, or a table to rest one end of the cross bars on, jiggle the cross bars down to join them to the uprights.**

5. Remove the safety rings from the pivot pins in the pivot brackets by turning the ring.

6. Using the pre-drilled holes near the bottom of the folding frame, slide the frame onto the pivot pins on each bedrail ensuring the **forward cross bar is forward**. The forward crossbar is the one with the **RED DOT**. Secure the safety rings back on. [The most common installation error is installing the frame on backwards. View photo to ensure correct orientation of the folding frame.] Rest the frame down towards the rear of the vehicle with the tailgate down.



7. Locate the 2 strips of bulb seal from the kit box.
8. Clean the space on the outside of the vehicle just under the toolboxes with a 50/50 water/ alcohol solution.
9. Peel the protective, red film off of the bulb seal. Adhere the bulb seal to the vehicle with the small flange resting directly against the base of the toolboxes on each side of the truck as shown below.

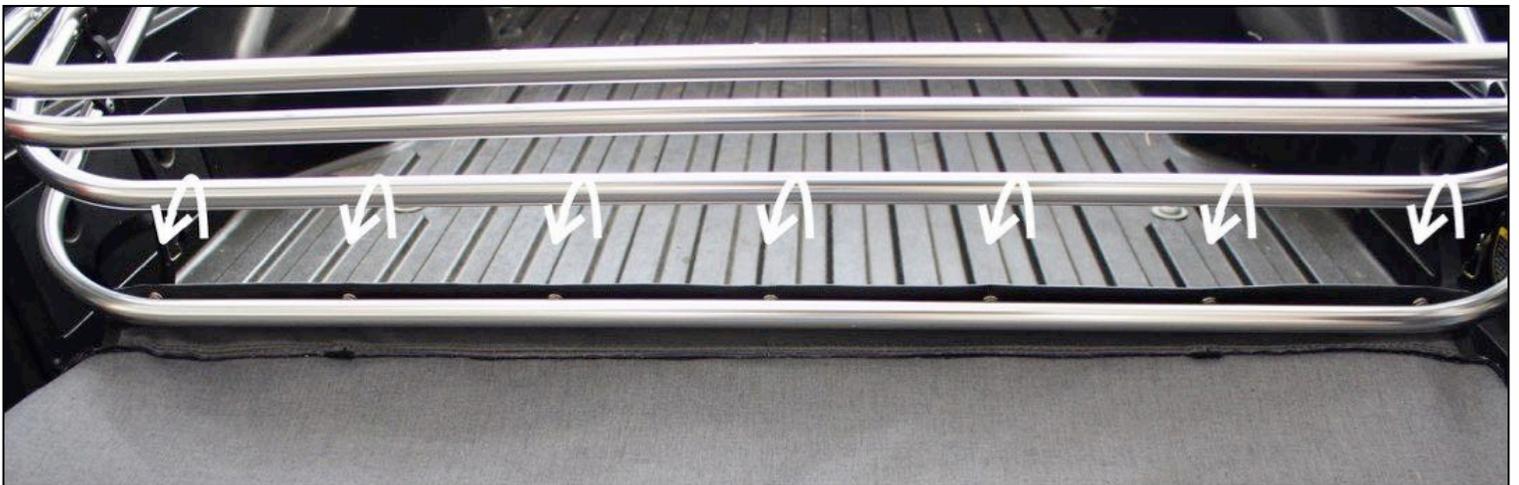


Soft Top Canopy Installation

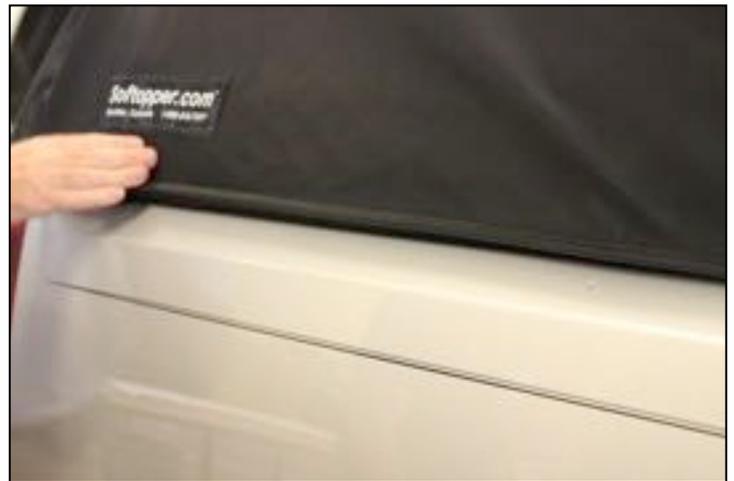
1. With the tailgate open, lower the folding frame to the rear of the vehicle.
2. Carefully place the canopy on the tailgate, as shown.



3. Locate the rear snap flap on the canopy of the Softopper. The snap flap should be showing once the canopy is taken out of the box. It is a flap that is sewn into the canopy that has female snaps installed in it.
4. Place the crossbar straps between the 2nd and 3rd snaps from each end of the rear crossbar.
5. Snap the canopy to the snaps on the bottom/rear most cross bar by slipping the fabric **UNDER** the bar and around as shown. Snap the 2 outward most snaps first, then the remaining snaps (4 crossbars shown).



6. Buckle the other end of the crossbar tensioning straps to the forward crossbar, and leave very loose for now.
7. From inside the truck bed, or with a person on each side of the truck, unfold the Softopper canopy, and raise the folding frame up towards the front of the truck bed until you can reach the previously installed header bar.
8. Insert the plastic strip that is sewn into the front of the Softopper roof into the gap at the front of the header bar.



9. Insert the plastic strips on each side of the canopy into the slots in the side of the vehicle that exist between the painted metal and the plastic molding. Make sure to include each small plastic strip when you are securing the canopy. Some are small and easy to miss. These will be fairly tight when the canopy is new, but will loosen up slightly over time. In the areas where there are toolboxes, you may have to loosen the toolbox door slightly to get the plastic strip insert properly.
10. Once the canopy is fully secured, tighten the 2 crossbar tensioning straps so that there is significant pressure upward on the roof of the canopy.

11. Latch the 2 safety straps that are attached to the folding frame to the metal loops at the rear of each bedrails, and tighten slightly. Do not over tighten these straps. If the canopy of the Softopper looks loose or wrinkly, it is possible that the crossbar straps are not tight enough, or that the safety straps are too tight.



12. **For 2007-2013 models only.** Locate a power drill, a 1/8" drill bit, the 2 screw in snaps from the kit, and the 2 small webbing loops sewn into ladder locks that have a female snap installed into the webbing. Drill a hole on the inside of the truck bed side wall at the rear of the truck bed as shown. Weave each of the webbing straps that are sewn into the rear of the canopy through the ladder locks on the loose webbing straps from the kit. Snap the strap to the snap that you installed onto the vehicle, and tighten the strap until the sides of the Softopper are tight and secure.



13. **For 2001-2006 models only.** Locate in the kit the 2 webbing straps that are sewn into the ladder locks that DO NOT have the female snaps installed in the webbing. Weave each of the webbing straps that are sewn into the rear of the canopy through the ladder locks on the loose webbing straps from the kit. Slide the small loops over the prongs at the rear of each side of the truck bed as shown. Tighten the straps until the sides of the Softopper are tight and secure.



14. Locate the rear window of the Softopper. With the tailgate down, sit of the tailgate facing rearward.
15. Join the tops of the zippers on each side of the rear window with the zippers that are sewn into the canopy. Zip them down only a few inches to begin. Secure the small velcro strips at the top of the zippers.
16. There is a small hole at the top of the rear window panel that designates the center of the rear window. Align that hole with the center snap of the rear crossbar, and join the velcro at the top of the rear window with the velcro on the roof of the canopy.
17. Close the tailgate, and zip shut the rear window of the Softopper.
18. Clean the outside of the tailgate with a 50/50 water/alcohol solution in the area where the rear window of the Softopper hits the tailgate. Adhere as many strips of the provided velcro as you'd like to the tailgate, and secure the bottom of the rear window to the velcro. Make sure not to pull on the velcro for 24 hours in order to ensure that it adheres properly. New adhesive velcro is available on our website if this velcro ever becomes old or peels off.



Installation Complete

Softopper Care and Maintenance

Your top is made of the finest materials available. To keep it looking new and for product longevity and durability, it will need periodic cleaning and maintenance. All pieces are individually replaceable; call 1-800-810-7227, or order your parts online at Softopper.com.

Washing: The fabric should be washed from time to time using a mild soap and warm water. Be sure to rinse all soap off the top when washing is complete.

Vinyl Windows: Windows should be kept clean to avoid scratching. Wash with a water-soaked sponge or cloth and a mild dishwashing detergent. **Do not use a coarse brush on the windows and never wipe the windows when they are dry.**

COLD WEATHER: As with all automotive and marine vinyls, extreme care must be taken when rolling up or folding the windows in cold temperatures. **Vinyl becomes stiff in cold temperatures and may crack. Retracting the Softopper in cold temperatures is not recommended and will void the warranty for the windows (see Warranty information for more detail on length of window warranties).** When opening the rear of the Softopper in cold weather, be sure to raise the zippers as high as possible so that any folding will occur to the topper fabric and not to the vinyl window.

Zippers: Keeping the zippers clean and lubricated with a silicone lubricant will help prevent damage and keep the zippers in smooth working condition.

Leakage: As with any sewn automotive top there is always a slight risk of leakage. **Right out of the box the Softopper may not be 100% waterproof.** If you experience any water seeping through at the seams, apply **Seam Sure** (supplied), on the inside of the affected seams. **Shake** Seam Sure well and apply liberally to the inside seams concentrating on areas where needle and thread penetrated the fabric.

Snaps: Keep snaps clean and lubricated with a silicone lubricant to help prevent snaps from sticking to the studs. If a snap does become stuck to a stud, use a screwdriver and gently pry apart to prevent damage to the snap or top fabric. If any snaps need to be replaced due to sticking or damage please call Softopper and we can send out a small do-it-yourself repair kit.

For further information please contact:
Softopper LLC, customer service
(800) 810-7227 or (303) 304-0533

Warranty

We warrant all of our Softoppers to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of one year, with the exception of vinyl windows and zippers, provided there has been normal use and proper maintenance.

Vinyl Windows are warranted for a period of 3 months from the date of purchase.

Zippers are guaranteed to be in perfect working condition when leaving the factory. Due to atmospheric conditions, dirt, sand, road grime, dust, and abrasive cleaners, etc., zippers are warranted for a period of 6 months from the date of purchase.

Toyota 4 Runner, Jeep Wrangler, Blazer, Jimmy, Scout, Bronco, and RamCharger side curtain windows are warranted for 45 days from the date of purchase. Retracting or closing the top when the temperature is below 40 degrees may void the warranty on the side windows, as clear vinyl plastic can crack very easily at these temperatures. Use caution when retracting the top or cleaning off the windows in freezing temperatures.

Returns must be made within 30 days of purchase, and must be pre-approved and have Softopper's issued RGA number attached. Any defective items must be returned with proof of purchase to Softopper 4750 Nautilus Court South, Unit B Boulder CO 80301, **freight pre-paid**. Items returned must be carefully packed, in clean condition, with plastic windows protected from scratching and creasing. This warranty does not cover damage resulting from abuse, misuse, alteration, accident or damage in transit. Softopper's obligations under this warranty are limited to the aforementioned **repair** or **replacement** of warranty defects for which return authorization has been received during the warranty period, and Softopper SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARISING FROM BREACH OF THIS OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY. This warranty applies to the original purchaser only. All remedies under this warranty are limited to repair or replacement of any item or items found to be defective by the factory within the time period specified.

For further information or request for repair work, please contact:

Softopper LLC, customer service
(800) 810-7227 or (303) 304-0533