

## **C6 Painted door handle replacement / door switch replacement**

**Difficulty 1 out of 5.**

**Expected time to complete: 10 minutes.**

**The tools required are:**

A Phillips head screwdriver.

A small flat blade screwdriver (optional)



This procedure will allow you to remove and replace you factory door switch for replacement or allow you to exchange your black factory door handles with painted parts. The procedure is essentially the same for the both the driver's side or passenger's side. The illustrations in this instruction are using the driver's side for replacement.



The C6 Corvette door handles are held in place with two Phillips head screws located inside the door jam. You can see them in this photo with the bottom screwed loose and ready to be removed.



Remove both screws. The handle is a fairly good friction fit to the door panel and it will stay in place once both screws are removed.



Once both screws are removed you will want to use both hands to work the switch and handle assembly off of the door. Use the thumb and forefinger of your hand to grasp the top and bottom of the switch assembly while using the other hand on the outside of the door to press to slide the switch backwards off the door. The switch and handle assembly will slide straight backward to come off the door. Very little force is required to remove slide the switch.





You can pull the assembly off the door and you will find that there is a connector on the back side of the switch. This of course provides the electrical connection for the operation of the door switch.



To release the connector you need to lift the tab from the detent at the middle of the base of the switch connector and the switch will separate from the mating connector. You can use the optional flat blade screwdriver to pry up the tab but you should be able to get it done with just your finger. Here is the view of the connector with the switch removed. You can also see the ribs molded in to the door to better hold the switch and handle assembly in place along with the two threaded receivers for the screws.





The switch assembly will likely stay in the handle as you remove it. To separate the switch from the handle you will need to hold the handle and press on the switch. The switch will come out and up. It is best to do this over a table or other surface as you don't want to drop the switch.





Here is the switch assembly out of the handle.



A few will be tempted to leave the switch assembly out of the handle to keep that clean look on the door but I would strongly advise against doing that. The handle is designed to provide support and shock protection for the switch assembly and putting the switch back without the handle will cause the switch to fail somewhere down the road due to the vibration it will face.

Here is just a quick look at the OEM handle and the new painted part.



I'd recommend that you take this opportunity to use a little quick detailer to clean the door panel around the handle area. A fair amount of road grime can collect under the handle as it is not sealed to the door. Cleaning this area now will prevent scratches and damage from occurring during the install of the new handles.

You can see in the photo below that the switch assembly can only go in one way. There is a feature molded in to the handle and the switch for alignment. You can see the one round hole and one elongated hole. There is a mating feature on the switch to mate with these areas. Also worth noting is that there is a left and a right handle. This is molded in to the base of the handle along with the OEM part number.





Now the process of putting it all back together. Start by inserting the switch assembly in to the new painted handle. It will likely not fit as snug as it did to the OEM handle and you should get used to how it aligns and fits. You may also find that you need to hold the switch in place during the installation.



Once you have the switch mated to the handle, place it back on the door. As noted, you may need to work at this a little bit to get it aligned and fully seated to the door panel.





Once you are happy with the alignment, insert the two screws. Not a bad idea to insert them finger tight initially and then go back and snug them down if you are happy with the fit.



## The finished product.



The painted handles in these photographs were painted by Atomic Autosports of Florida.  
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<http://www.atomicautostore.com/>

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