2011-2016 Scion tC - Replace Headlight Bulb

2011-2016 Scion tC | Moderate | 10-20 minutes | $133 DIY

TOOLS

Flat-head screwdriver Nitrile gloves or a clean cloth Flashlight or headlamp

PARTS

9005 Halogen Headlight Bulb SY69JR $32.75
LED Headlight Bulb Kit ARC39VR $99.99

STEPS

1. **Cool down and pop the hood - The 2011-2016 tC is friendly for this job - both bulbs are** reachable from the engine bay. Park on level ground, switch the lights off, and let the engine cool. Pop the hood and prop it open.
2. **Find the rubber dust boot behind the headlight - Look at the back of the headlight** housing - you'll see a round rubber dust boot over the bulb opening. Note its orientation before touching it; it must go back the same way to seal.
3. **Pull the dust boot off - Grip the rubber boot by its edge and pull it straight off -** friction fit, no screws. Set it aside somewhere clean; grit on the sealing lip lets moisture in later. The bulb base and wiring connector are now visible.
4. **Disconnect the wiring plug - Squeeze the locking tab on the electrical connector and pull** it straight off the back of the bulb - pull the plug body, not the wires. If it feels stuck, rock it gently side to side while squeezing the tab.
5. **Release the wire spring retainer and remove the bulb - The bulb is held by a wire spring** retainer. Press it inward, swing it aside, and lift the old bulb out by its base. The three tabs line up with the housing notches - the replacement sits the same way.
6. **Install the new bulb and re-lock the retainer - Without touching the glass, seat the new** bulb so its tabs drop into the notches, latching the retainer. An unseated bulb throws a lopsided beam. Finger oil on the glass becomes a hot spot that shortens bulb life.
7. **Reassemble and check your work - Push the dust boot back over the housing, pressing it on** evenly. Reconnect the wiring plug until it clicks. Close the hood and turn the headlights on - verify low and high beam. Do the other side too.

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