Fiberglass Spring Plate Installation

Most outdoor furniture swivel chairs use two spring plates which allow the chair to rock back and forth. Overtime, the fiberglass spring plates eventually weaken through extended use and from being exposed to the outdoor elements; resulting in the softening or breakage of the spring plates. If you find that your outdoor swivel chair has too much rocking action, it may be time to replace the fiberglass spring plates on your chairs.

Chair Care Patio makes it easy for anyone to repair the fiberglass spring plates on their outdoor patio furniture. We offer two sizes of fiberglass spring plates, 2½” x 5” and 3” x 5” (width x length).

1. Begin by removing the original spring plates from your outdoor swivel chair. Pay close attention to how your outdoor furniture chair frame is assembled and take pictures if needed. The chair frame will be reassembled in the same fashion, so it is important to take note of how your outdoor patio chair came apart.
Note: It is very important to keep all the original hardware that has been removed from your chair frame as it will be needed for re-installation of the replacement parts offered by Chair Care Patio.

2. Measure your original fiberglass spring plates to determine the size of the replacement parts needed.

3. The fiberglass spring plate replacement parts offered by Chair Care Patio do not ship with pre-drilled holes. Before installation of your new fiberglass spring plates, four holes will need to be drilled in the same position as the holes in the original spring plates that were removed from your chair frame in step 1.

4. Use your original spring plate as a template for the location of the holes on the new replacement parts.
5. Stack the original spring plate on top of the replacement spring plate. A drill press is ideal when drilling new holes into your fiberglass spring plates. If you do not have access to a drill press be sure to use a stationary vise or a good pair of vise grips to hold the plates in place before beginning.

6. Before drilling check the size again make sure your new plates are just as WIDE or WIDER than the original plates. The width is the shorter of the two sides. If the new plates are not wide enough, do not drill the holes. You will need to reorder a larger size.

7. Use a drill bit slightly larger than the current hardware being installed. This will allow the bolts to pass through the spring plate freely. For example, for ¼” hardware, we suggest using a 5/16” drill bit for this process (1/16” larger).
8. To maintain the structural integrity of the plate, there must always be a minimum of 3/8” between the edge of the spring plate and the outside of the hole.

9. With the spring plates lined up in position, drill through the holes in the original spring plate and into the new spring plate.

10. After drilling, carefully inspect your plates for any cracks, especially along the edges. If the plates appear to have cracked in any direction after drilling, you will need to replace them. Any cracks in the spring plates compromise the structural integrity and will cause them to fail immediately. Do not (re)install any plates with cracks in them.

11. If desired, the replacement spring plates can be spray painted to match your chair frame. For best results, Chair Care Patio recommends lightly sanding the new spring plates with fine sand paper before spray painting. Consult with your local hardware store to choose the proper paint.
12. Once dry, install the new replacement spring plates on your chair frame using the original hardware. When reinstalling the hardware be certain that the nuts and bolts never come in direct contact with the actual fiberglass spring plate. The spring plate should ALWAYS be installed in between a flat metal washer and the chair frame. The bolt head and nut must not be in direct contact with the fiberglass plate. The rectangular metal pieces serve as washers and help distribute the load across the plate.

We recommend installing both spring plates to the swivel base (or the part of the chair that sits on the floor) first. This will make assembling the heavier portion of the chair frame to spring plates a little easier.

13. Enjoy!!!