

CURT 13409

CURT 13409 Class 3 Trailer Hitch Instruction Manual

For Select Subaru Forester Models

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The CURT 13409 Class 3 Trailer Hitch is designed to provide a dependable towing solution for select Subaru Forester vehicles. This hitch features a 2-inch x 2-inch receiver tube, suitable for a variety of towing applications. It is constructed from high-strength carbon steel and protected with a dual-coat finish for enhanced durability and resistance to environmental factors.

- **Dependable Strength:** Rated for 3,500 lbs. gross trailer weight (GTW) and 525 lbs. tongue weight (TW).
- **Versatile Design:** Equipped with a standard 2-inch x 2-inch hitch receiver.
- **Fully Tested:** Designed and tested in real-world, on-vehicle conditions according to SAE J684 standards.
- **Rust, Chip, UV-Resistant:** Features a co-cured finish of liquid A-coat and black powder coat.
- **Easy to Install:** Custom-fit design for specific Subaru Forester model years.



Image 1.1: The CURT 13409 Class 3 Trailer Hitch, showcasing its robust construction and 2-inch receiver.

2. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Installation of the CURT 13409 trailer hitch is designed to be vehicle-specific for a precise fit on select Subaru Forester models. While the process is straightforward, it requires attention to detail and proper tools.

2.1. Before You Begin

- Review the official [Installation Manual \(PDF\)](#) provided by CURT for detailed, step-by-step instructions specific to your vehicle.
- Gather all necessary tools, including a step drill bit (up to 1-1/2 inches for frame holes and 3/4 inches for heat shield), penetrating oil, and a soapy water solution or WD-40.
- Ensure you have adequate space and lighting to work safely under the vehicle. Consider using ramps or a lift if available.

2.2. Key Installation Steps and Tips

1. **Muffler Management:** It is often easier to completely remove the muffler rather than just dropping and suspending it. Apply penetrating oil to bolts before removal to prevent snapping. Lubricate muffler mounting blocks with soapy water or WD-40 for easier removal and reinstallation.
2. **Frame Hole Enlargement:** You may need to enlarge existing frame holes to accommodate the hitch hardware. Use a step drill bit for clean, precise holes. After drilling, seal the exposed metal with paint or a rust-inhibiting coating like POR-15 to prevent corrosion.
3. **Heat Shield Modification:** The heat shield may require trimming or drilling additional holes for proper fitment. This is a minor modification and should be done carefully.
4. **Fishing Wires:** CURT hitches often utilize fishing wires to guide bolts and hardware through the vehicle's frame. These wires are designed to be foolproof, making it easier to position the bolts correctly and prevent them from getting lost inside the frame.
5. **Tightening Hardware:** Ensure all bolts are tightened to the torque specifications outlined in the official installation manual.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

Representative Image

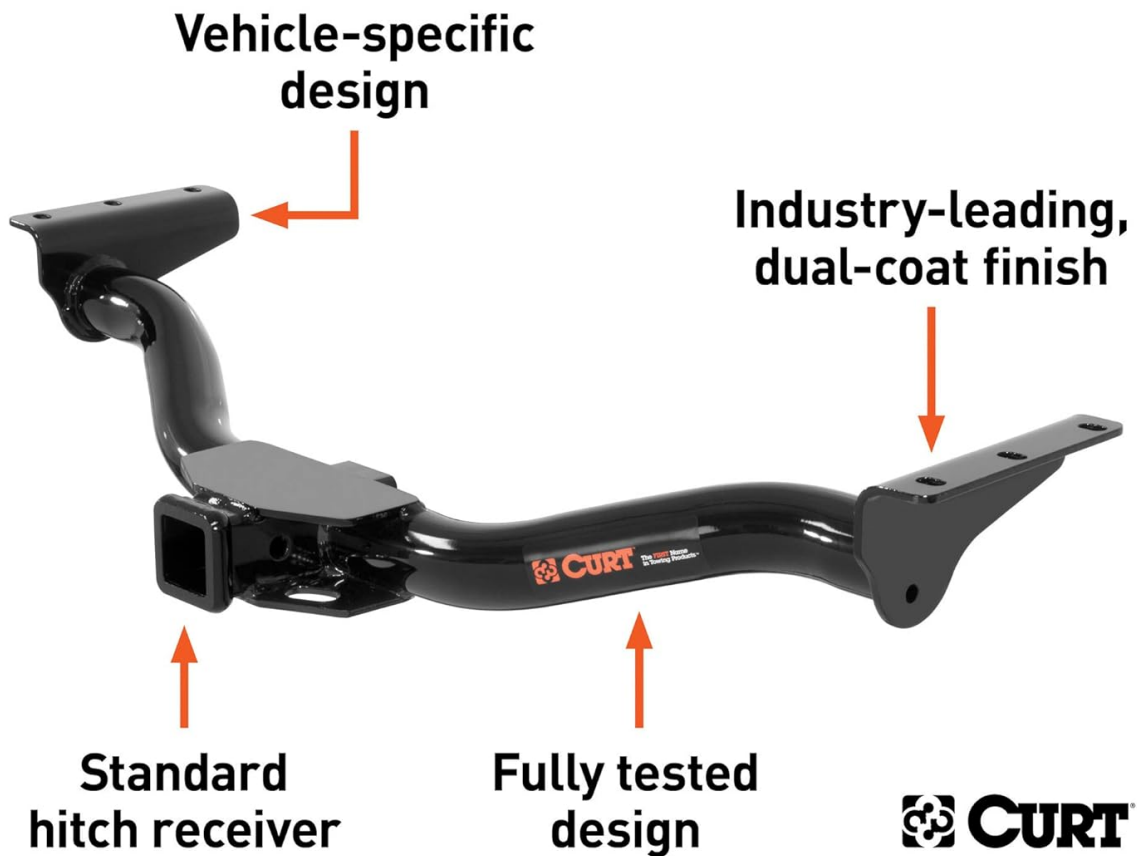


Image 2.1: Diagram illustrating key features such as vehicle-specific design, standard hitch receiver, fully tested design, and dual-coat finish.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

Industry-leading, dual-coat finish



Image 2.2: A CURT hitch undergoing rigorous testing to ensure compliance with SAE J684 standards for safety and durability.



Image 2.3: Side view of a Subaru Forester with the CURT trailer hitch properly installed, demonstrating its integrated appearance.



Image 2.4: Rear view of a Subaru Forester showing the CURT trailer hitch receiver, ready for towing.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once installed, the CURT 13409 Class 3 Trailer Hitch allows your Subaru Forester to tow various types of trailers. Always adhere to the specified weight capacities and safety guidelines.

3.1. Towing Capacity

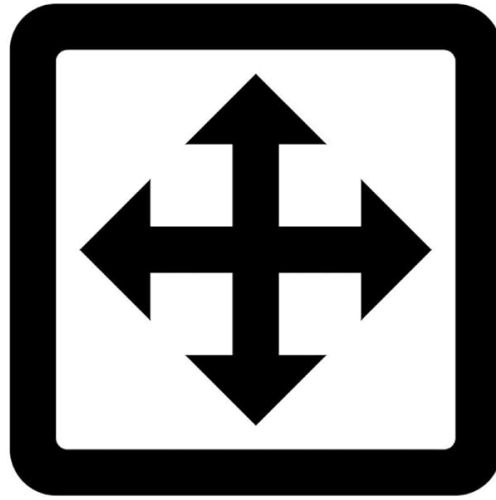
- **Gross Trailer Weight (GTW):** 3,500 lbs.
- **Tongue Weight (TW):** 525 lbs.

Important: Never exceed the lowest-rated towing component in your setup, which includes the vehicle's towing capacity, the hitch's capacity, and the capacity of any other towing accessories (e.g., ball mount, trailer ball).

3.2. Connecting a Trailer

1. Insert the appropriate ball mount into the 2-inch receiver tube and secure it with a hitch pin and clip.
2. Attach the trailer coupler to the trailer ball, ensuring it is fully seated and locked.
3. Connect the trailer's safety chains to the designated chain loops on the hitch. Cross the chains under the coupler to create a cradle in case of detachment.
4. Connect the trailer's electrical wiring harness to your vehicle's towing electrical connector.
5. Verify all lights (brake, turn signals, running lights) on the trailer are functioning correctly.

RECEIVER TUBE SIZE



2"



Image 3.1: Illustration indicating the 2-inch receiver tube size, which is standard for this Class 3 hitch.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

Standard hitch receiver



Image 3.2: A close-up view of the standard 2-inch hitch receiver, showing the opening where a ball mount or other towing accessory is inserted.

4. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance will ensure the longevity and safe operation of your CURT trailer hitch.

- **Regular Inspection:** Periodically inspect the hitch for any signs of damage, rust, or loose fasteners. Check for cracks in welds or bent components.
- **Cleanliness:** Keep the receiver tube free of dirt, debris, and rust. This ensures easy insertion and removal of ball mounts and other accessories.
- **Corrosion Protection:** The hitch is protected with a durable dual-coat finish (liquid A-coat and black powder coat) designed to resist rust, chipping, and UV damage. If the finish is scratched or damaged, touch it up with rust-inhibiting paint to prevent corrosion.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a light coat of grease to the inside of the receiver tube and to the hitch pin to prevent rust and facilitate easier connection.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

Fully tested design



Image 4.1: Hitch components immersed in a liquid A-coat bath, part of the dual-coat finishing process that provides superior resistance to rust and chipping.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues that may arise with your trailer hitch.

- **Difficulty Inserting Ball Mount:** Ensure the receiver tube is clean and free of debris or rust. Apply a lubricant if necessary. Check for any deformation of the receiver opening.
- **Excessive Play/Rattling:** Verify that the hitch pin and clip are securely in place. If using an anti-rattle device, ensure it is properly installed and tightened. Check all mounting bolts for proper torque.
- **Unusual Noises During Towing:** Inspect all connections, including the ball mount, coupler, and safety chains. Ensure the trailer's weight is within the hitch's capacity and properly distributed.
- **Corrosion/Rust Spots:** Clean the affected area thoroughly and apply a rust-inhibiting primer followed by a black automotive paint to match the original finish.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Value
Brand	CURT
Model Number	13409
Receiver Tube Size	2 inches x 2 inches
Gross Trailer Weight (GTW)	3,500 lbs.
Tongue Weight (TW)	525 lbs.
Material	Carbon Steel
Finish Type	Gloss Black Powder Coat (Dual-Coat)
Item Weight	40 Pounds
Product Dimensions	44 x 19 x 10 inches
Vehicle Service Type	ATV, Car, Pickup Trucks, Sport-Utility-Vehicles, Trailer
Automotive Fit Type	Vehicle Specific Fit (Select Subaru Forester)
UPC	612314134090

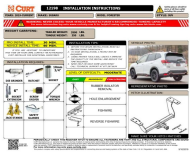
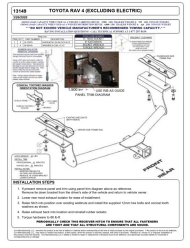
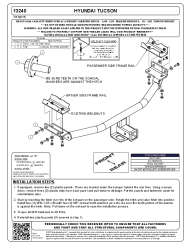


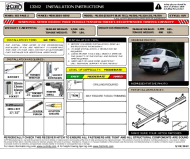
7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information regarding your CURT 13409 Class 3 Trailer Hitch, please refer to the documentation included with your product or visit the official CURT website. CURT stands behind the quality of its products, offering support for installation and product-related inquiries.

7.1. Customer Support

If you encounter any issues or have questions not covered in this manual, please contact CURT customer support directly. You can find contact information and additional resources on the official CURT website or through their Amazon store page:

- Visit the [CURT Store on Amazon](#).
- Refer to the official [Installation Manual \(PDF\)](#) for detailed instructions.

	<p>CURT 12198 Trailer Hitch Installation Instructions for 2019-Current Subaru Forester</p> <p>Comprehensive installation guide for the CURT 12198 receiver hitch, designed for 2019-Current Subaru Forester models. Includes a detailed parts list, required tools, step-by-step instructions, and essential towing safety information.</p>
	<p>Toyota RAV4 (2006-Current) Trailer Hitch Installation Guide - CURT 13149</p> <p>Step-by-step installation instructions for the CURT 13149 Class 3 Trailer Hitch for Toyota RAV4 models (2006-Current, excluding Electric). Includes parts list, tools required, safety information, and towing capacity details.</p>
	<p>CURT 13240 Class III Trailer Hitch Installation Guide for Hyundai Tucson</p> <p>Step-by-step installation instructions for the CURT 13240 Class III receiver hitch, designed for the Hyundai Tucson. Includes parts list, tools required, safety warnings, and warranty details.</p>
	<p>CURT 17352 Weight Distribution Hitch Installation Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive installation manual for the CURT 17352 Weight Distribution Hitch, covering assembly, measurements, installation steps, adjustments, and towing tips for safe and effective trailer towing.</p>
	<p>CURT 13146 Trailer Hitch Installation Manual</p> <p>This document provides installation instructions for the CURT 13146 trailer hitch, including parts list, tools required, safety instructions, and towing capacity information for select Honda Pilot and Acura MDX models.</p>
	<p>CURT 13342 Installation Instructions for Mercedes-Benz ML Series Trailer Hitch</p> <p>Detailed installation guide for the CURT 13342 receiver hitch, designed for Mercedes-Benz ML350, ML500, ML320 CDI, and ML550 models (2006-2010). Includes specifications, required tools, parts list, step-by-step walkthrough, safety warnings, and warranty information.</p>