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Reese 84288

Reese Towpower Class 3 Trailer Hitch Instruction Manual

Model: 84288

Compatible with: 2019-2022 BMW X5

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the safe and proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your Reese Towpower Class 3 Trailer Hitch, Model 84288. Please read all instructions thoroughly before proceeding with installation or use. Retain this manual for future reference.

WARNING: This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information, visit www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Reese Towpower Class 3 Trailer Hitch is designed for reliable towing performance. It features a 2-inch receiver opening and is constructed with solid all-welded components for maximum strength and safety. The Metal Shield black coating provides enhanced protection against corrosion.

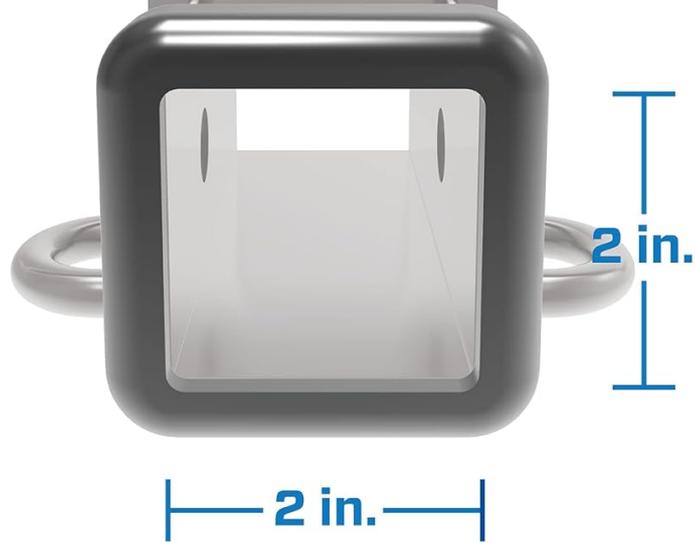


Figure 1: Reese Towpower Class 3 Trailer Hitch, Model 84288. This image displays the complete trailer hitch assembly, showcasing its robust construction and black finish.

Key Features:

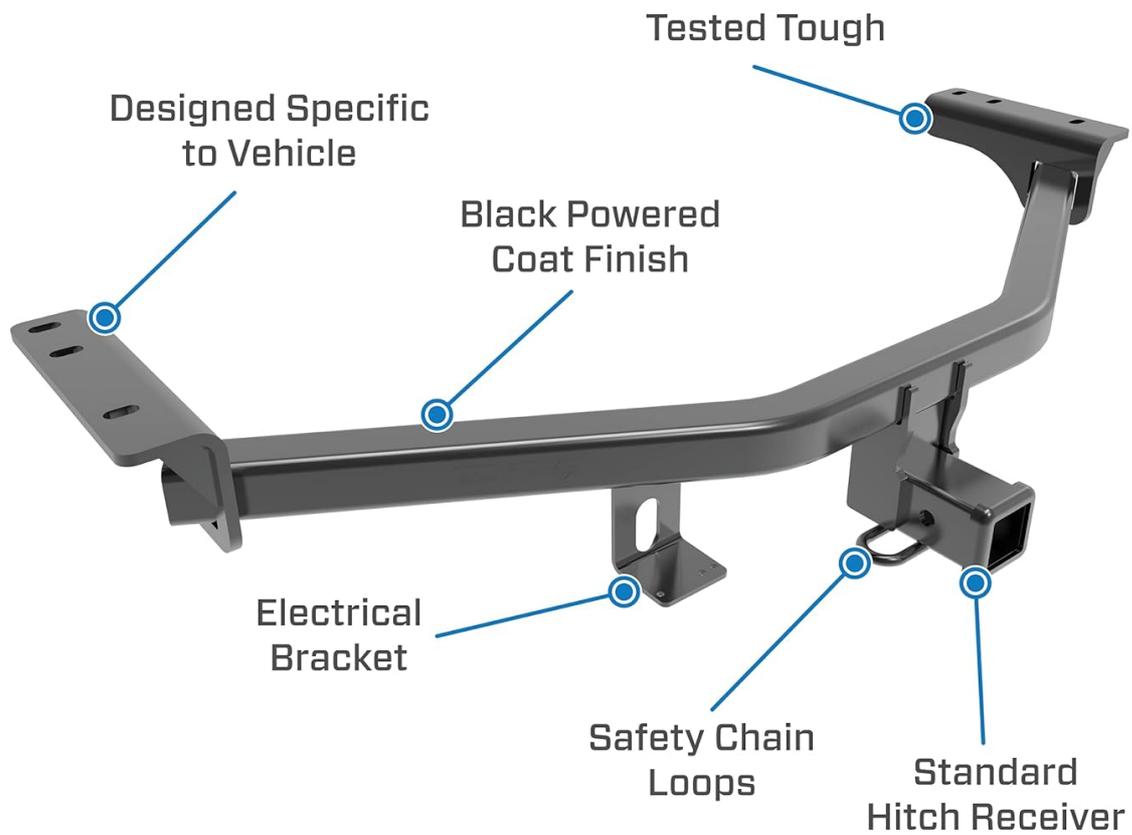
- 2-inch receiver opening square tube hitch.
- Weight Carrying Capacity: Tongue Weight 720 lbs / Gross Trailer Weight 7,200 lbs.
- Weight Distributing Capacity: Tongue Weight 720 lbs / Gross Trailer Weight 7,200 lbs.
- Metal Shield® black coating for ultimate corrosion protection.
- No drilling required for installation on compatible vehicles.

2 in. Receiver Opening



Representative Image

Figure 2: Close-up view of the 2-inch receiver opening, highlighting its dimensions and robust design.

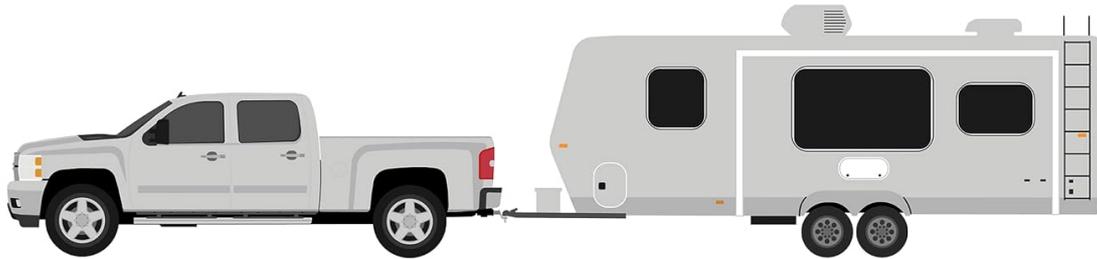


Representative Image

Figure 3: Diagram illustrating key features of the hitch, including the standard hitch receiver, safety chain loops, electrical bracket, black powder coat finish, and vehicle-specific design.

CLASS III/IV

Heavy Duty Trailer Hitch



Hitch Can Receive



**Ball
Mounts**



**Weight
Distribution**



**Cargo
Carriers**



**Bike
Carrier**

Figure 4: Illustration demonstrating various applications for a Class III/IV Heavy Duty Trailer Hitch, such as ball mounts, weight distribution systems, cargo carriers, and bike carriers.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components are present before beginning installation:

- Trailer Hitch Assembly
- All necessary Hardware (bolts, nuts, washers)
- Installation Instructions

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Value
Brand	Reese
Model	84288
Vehicle Service Type	Trailer

Material	Metal
Finish Type	Powder Coated
Item Weight	46.6 pounds
Package Dimensions	44.6 x 31.2 x 10.8 inches
UPC	016118154399

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for safe towing. Refer to the included installation instructions specific to your vehicle for exact details. The following video provides a general overview of the installation process for a basic receiver hitch.

Video 1: How to Install a Basic Receiver (Trailer) Hitch. This video demonstrates the general steps involved in installing a receiver hitch, including checking parts, inspecting the vehicle, organizing hardware, positioning the hitch, identifying and drilling attachment holes, attaching the hitch, tightening bolts, and replacing removed components.

General Installation Steps:

- 1. Preparation:** Before starting, ensure you have the correct hitch for your vehicle by checking the part number against the vehicle's application guide. Gather all necessary tools, including a torque wrench, hand wrench, safety glasses, and gloves.
- 2. Vehicle Inspection:** Inspect the vehicle's frame for any damage or excessive corrosion at the hitch attachment points. Ensure the frame is in suitable condition for installation. If present, clean any corroded weld nuts with a matching sized tap.
- 3. Bumper/Exhaust Adjustments (if required):** Some installations may require temporary removal or trimming of the bumper fascia, or lowering of the exhaust system. Use a spray lubricant or soapy water mixture with exhaust pliers to aid in removing rubber hangers if needed.
- 4. Organize Hardware:** Organize the fastening hardware according to the provided instructions. This helps identify which fasteners are used for each attachment point. Use only Draw-Tite provided bolts, nuts, and washers.
- 5. Position the Hitch:** Carefully position the hitch on the vehicle as indicated in the instructions. Use jack stands or a second person to help hold the hitch in place, ensuring it is level and all attachment points align.
- 6. Identify and Drill Attachment Holes:** If drilling into the vehicle frame is required, use the hitch as a template to mark and drill the necessary holes. Always check for wires and fuel lines inside the frame sections before drilling.
- 7. Attach the Hitch:** Once all attachment holes are prepared, attach the hitch to the vehicle. For hard-to-reach areas, use the provided pull wires, carriage bolts, spacers, or handle nuts to guide fasteners into position.
- 8. Tighten and Torque Bolts:** Hand-tighten all bolts evenly. Then, use a torque wrench to tighten all fasteners to the proper torque specifications indicated in your vehicle-specific installation instructions. Never use excessive torque or an impact wrench.
- 9. Replace Removed Parts:** Reattach any vehicle components that were temporarily removed during installation, such as the exhaust system, spare tire, or bumper fascia.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

When using your Reese Towpower Class 3 Trailer Hitch, always adhere to the following guidelines to ensure

safe operation:

- **Weight Capacity:** Never exceed the lowest weight rating of any component in your towing system. This includes the Gross Trailer Weight (GTW) and Tongue Weight (TW) of your trailer, your tow vehicle's maximum towing capacity, and the receiver hitch's maximum towing capacity. The component with the lowest load capacity determines the highest load you can safely tow.
- **Trailer Connection:** Ensure the trailer is securely connected to the hitch ball. Always use safety chains, crossing them under the trailer tongue and attaching them to the designated safety chain loops on the hitch.
- **Lighting:** Verify that all trailer lights (tail lights, brake lights, turn signals) are functioning correctly before each trip.
- **Load Distribution:** Distribute the trailer load evenly, with approximately 10-15% of the total trailer weight on the tongue for conventional trailers.

MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Regular maintenance will prolong the life of your trailer hitch and ensure continued safe operation:

- **Regular Inspection:** Periodically inspect the hitch for any signs of wear, damage, cracks, or corrosion. Pay close attention to the welds and attachment points.
- **Cleanliness:** Keep the hitch clean from dirt, salt, and road debris. Wash it regularly, especially after exposure to harsh weather conditions.
- **Corrosion Protection:** The Metal Shield black coating provides excellent corrosion resistance. If any scratches or chips occur, touch up the paint to prevent rust.
- **Bolt Tightness:** Re-check the tightness of all mounting bolts periodically, especially after the first few hundred miles of towing and before long trips. Re-torque to the specified values if necessary.

TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

If you encounter any issues with your trailer hitch, consider the following:

- **Loose Hitch:** If the hitch feels loose or makes unusual noises, immediately stop towing and inspect all mounting bolts. Re-torque them to the manufacturer's specifications.
- **Excessive Rust/Corrosion:** While the hitch has a protective coating, prolonged exposure to harsh elements or damage to the coating can lead to rust. Clean the affected area thoroughly and apply a rust-inhibiting paint.
- **Difficulty Inserting/Removing Accessories:** Ensure the receiver opening is clean and free of debris. A small amount of lubricant can help with insertion.
- **Unusual Noises During Towing:** This could indicate loose connections, improper load distribution, or issues with the trailer itself. Stop safely and inspect your entire towing setup.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

The Reese Towpower Class 3 Trailer Hitch, Model 84288, is backed by a Nationwide Limited Lifetime Warranty. This warranty covers defects in material and workmanship for the lifetime of the original purchaser. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims. For specific terms and conditions, refer to the warranty documentation included with your product or contact customer support.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

If you have any questions regarding the installation, operation, or maintenance of your Reese Towpower trailer hitch, please contact your dealer or the manufacturer's customer support. Have your product model number

(84288) and purchase information ready when contacting support.