

Thule Elite

Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack for Ford Transit H3 User Manual

Model: Elite (Part Number: 302067)

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack, specifically designed for Ford Transit H3 vans. This platform rack allows for the secure transport of up to two bicycles without requiring drilling into your vehicle. Its design ensures the rear doors can be opened even with bikes loaded, and the rack can be easily removed when not in use.

Key features include:

- Capacity for 2 bikes (not extendable)
- Designed for Ford Transit H3 vans
- Rear doors can be opened without removing bikes
- No drilling required; clamps and adhesive secure the rack
- Easy removal when not in use

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Thule Elite Van XT is a robust and user-friendly bike rack constructed from durable aluminum. Its design prioritizes stability and ease of use for van owners.



Figure 1: Main view of the Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack. This image displays the rack's overall structure, including the bike trays and frame holders.



Figure 2: Detailed view of the Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack components, highlighting the adjustable wheel straps and frame clamps.

SETUP

The Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack is designed for quick and easy installation on the rear of your Ford Transit H3 van without the need for drilling. The rack is secured using a combination of clamps and specialized adhesive.

1. **Prepare the Mounting Surface:** Ensure the rear door surface where the rack will be mounted is clean, dry, and free from any debris or wax.
2. **Position the Rack:** Carefully position the bike rack on the rear of the van according to the detailed

instructions provided in the product's included manual. Ensure proper alignment for optimal functionality and safety.

3. **Apply Adhesive:** Apply the recommended automotive-grade adhesive (e.g., Sikaflex 252, sold separately) to the horizontal clamping/mounting bars as instructed. This adhesive provides a strong, semi-permanent bond.
4. **Secure Clamps:** Tighten the clamping mechanisms to firmly attach the rack to the vehicle. Allow adequate curing time for the adhesive before loading bikes or driving.



Figure 3: The Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack securely installed on the rear of a van, demonstrating its integrated design.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Loading and unloading bikes on the Thule Elite Van XT is designed to be straightforward. Follow these steps for secure transport.

Loading Bicycles

1. **Prepare the Rack:** Ensure the rack is securely mounted and the wheel trays are in the open position.
2. **Position the Bike:** Lift the first bicycle onto the rack, placing its wheels into the designated trays. The 7.5-inch spacing between trays accommodates various bike styles.
3. **Secure the Frame:** Use the adjustable frame clamp to firmly grip the bicycle's frame. The rubberized clamp material helps prevent scratches and molds to the frame for a secure hold. Tighten the clamp until the bike is stable.
4. **Strap the Wheels:** Secure both wheels using the integrated ratcheting straps. Ensure the straps are tight to prevent any movement during transit.
5. **Repeat for Second Bike:** If transporting two bikes, repeat the process for the second bicycle.



Figure 4: Two bicycles securely loaded onto the Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack, demonstrating proper positioning and securing.

Unloading Bicycles

1. **Release Wheel Straps:** Unfasten the ratcheting straps securing both wheels of the bicycle.
2. **Release Frame Clamp:** Loosen and open the frame clamp.
3. **Remove Bike:** Carefully lift the bicycle off the rack.
4. **Repeat if Necessary:** Repeat the process for any additional bicycles.

Accessing Rear Doors with Bikes Loaded

A key advantage of the Thule Elite Van XT is the ability to open the van's rear doors without removing the bikes. Consult your product manual for specific instructions on how to unlatch and swing open the rack mechanism to allow door access.

Folding and Removing the Rack

The rack can be folded compact when not in use or easily removed from the van. Refer to your product manual for detailed steps on folding the rack or detaching it from the mounting points.

Relevant Video Demonstrations

The following videos demonstrate general principles of loading, securing, and operating hitch-mount bike racks, which can be helpful for understanding the functionality of your Thule Elite Van XT.

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Video 1: This video demonstrates the loading and unloading process for a 2-bike hitch-mount rack with an integrated ramp. It shows how to position bikes, secure them with clamps and straps, and utilize the ramp for heavy e-bikes.

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Video 2: This video provides a guide on how to load, lock, use the ramp, tilt, and fold a bike rack. It highlights the securement of bikes and the convenience features of the rack.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and safe operation of your Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack.

- **Cleaning:** Clean the rack regularly with mild soap and water, especially after exposure to dirt, salt, or harsh weather conditions. Rinse thoroughly and dry.
- **Inspect Fasteners:** Periodically check all bolts, nuts, and straps for tightness. Tighten any loose fasteners to ensure the rack remains securely attached to your vehicle and bikes.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a silicone-based lubricant to moving parts, such as hinges and locking mechanisms, to ensure smooth operation and prevent corrosion.
- **Strap Condition:** Inspect all straps for signs of wear, fraying, or damage. Replace any damaged straps immediately.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the bike rack in a dry, protected area to prevent exposure to extreme weather conditions.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter any issues with your Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack, refer to the following common troubleshooting tips:

- **Rack Wobbles:** Ensure all mounting clamps and bolts are tightened to the specified torque. Check that the hitch receiver (if applicable) is free from excessive play.
- **Bikes Not Secure:** Verify that all frame clamps are firmly gripping the bike frames and that wheel straps are ratcheted down tightly. Adjust the position of the bike in the trays if necessary.
- **Difficulty Opening Rear Doors:** Ensure the rack's tilt or swing-away mechanism is fully engaged as per the operating instructions. If the mechanism is stiff, apply lubricant to hinges.
- **Scratches on Bike Frame:** Ensure the rubber padding on the frame clamps is intact and properly positioned. Avoid overtightening the clamps.

SPECIFICATIONS


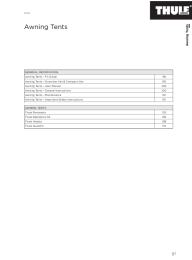


Feature	Detail
Brand	Thule
Model Name	Elite
Part Number	302067
Style	Ford Transit H3
Color	Black
Material	Aluminum
Item Dimensions (L x W x H)	53 x 27 x 8 inches
Item Weight	9.5 Kilograms
Is Foldable	No
Included Components	Bike rack for vans


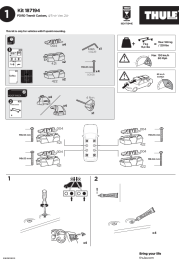
WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Thule Elite Van XT Bike Rack comes with a **Limited Lifetime Warranty**. For detailed information regarding warranty coverage, claims, or technical support, please refer to the official Thule website or contact their customer service directly.

Always use genuine Thule replacement parts and accessories to ensure safety and maintain warranty validity.

Related Documents - Elite

	<p>Thule Product Guide - Van & Minivan Accessories 2020</p> <p>Explore Thule's 2020 Product Guide for van and minivan accessories, featuring innovative roof rack systems, versatile awnings, smart storage solutions, and specialized carriers for bikes, water sports, and winter sports gear. Discover high-quality, secure, and easy-to-use products designed to enhance your active outdoor lifestyle and simplify bringing all your essential gear.</p>
	<p>Thule Awning Tents - Comprehensive Guide and Fitment</p> <p>A detailed guide to Thule Awning Tents, including fitment information, specifications, features, and installation instructions for various models like Thule Panorama, Thule Residence G3, Thule Veduta, and Thule QuickFit.</p>
	<p>Thule Epos 2-bike Hitch Rack - Installation and User Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive instructions for installing and using the Thule Epos 2-bike hitch-mounted bike rack (Model 903210). Includes safety warnings, compatibility checks, and step-by-step guides.</p>
	

 The image shows the cover of the Thule Verse 2-Bike Rack Installation Guide. It features the Thule logo at the top, followed by the title "Instructions" and the product names "Thule Verse 2-bike 903452" and "Thule Verse 2-bike add-on 903651". Below the text is a photograph of the bike rack assembly. At the bottom left, there is a small icon of a smartphone and the text "Bring your phone".	<p>Thule Verse 2-Bike Rack Installation Guide (903452, 903651)</p> <p>Comprehensive installation and user manual for the Thule Verse 2-bike rack (model 903452) and its add-on (model 903651). Includes parts, assembly, safety, and compatibility information.</p>
 The image shows the cover of the Thule Kit 187194 Installation Guide for Ford Transit Custom. It features the Thule logo at the top, followed by the title "Instructions" and the product name "Thule Kit 187194". Below the text is a photograph of the roof rack assembly. At the bottom left, there is a small icon of a smartphone and the text "Bring your phone".	<p>Thule Kit 187194 Installation Guide for Ford Transit Custom</p> <p>Step-by-step installation instructions for the Thule Kit 187194 roof rack fitting kit, designed for Ford Transit Custom (4/5-dr Van, 24-) vehicles with fixpoint mounting. Includes part details, torque specifications, and safety guidelines.</p>