

**Thule Kit 5297 (Model 145297)**

# Thule Roof Rack System Installation Kit 5297 User Manual

**BRAND: THULE**

**Model: Kit 5297 (Model 145297)**

## 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Thule Roof Rack System Installation Kit 5297 is a specialized kit designed for installing a Thule roof rack system on vehicles that do not have pre-installed rack attachment points or factory-installed racks. This kit provides the necessary components to securely mount your Thule roof rack.

### Key Features:

- Kits fit vehicles with bare roofs, fixed points, flush rails, T-tracks, or custom rack installations.
- Compatible with Thule roof rack bags. For recommended rack solutions for your car, please check the Thule Buyer's Guide.
- Please check the Thule Buyer's Guide (link below) to find the right kit for your specific car.
- Covered by Thule's limited warranty.



Image: Components of the Thule Roof Rack System Installation Kit 5297, showing the black plastic mounting brackets and pads.

## 2. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for the safety and performance of your Thule roof rack system. Always refer to the detailed instructions provided with your specific Thule roof rack and this fit kit. The general steps below outline the process:

1. **Identify Vehicle Specifics:** Ensure you have the correct Thule fit kit for your vehicle's make, model, and year. Consult the [Thule Buyer's Guide](#) if unsure.
2. **Unpack Components:** Carefully unpack all parts of the Thule Roof Rack System Installation Kit 5297 and your Thule roof rack bars and feet. Verify all components are present according to the packing list.
3. **Prepare Vehicle Surface:** Clean the vehicle's roof thoroughly where the rack will be installed. Ensure it is free of dirt, debris, and wax to allow for proper adhesion and secure fitting of the pads.
4. **Assemble Foot Packs:** Attach the components of the Kit 5297 (pads and clamps) to the Thule foot packs as per the foot pack's instructions. These components are designed to interface specifically with your vehicle's roof profile.
5. **Mount Crossbars:** Securely attach the crossbars to the assembled foot packs. Ensure the crossbars are correctly spaced and aligned according to your vehicle's specifications and the roof rack system's manual.
6. **Position on Vehicle:** Carefully place the assembled roof rack system onto your vehicle's roof. Adjust the position to match the designated mounting points or measurements specified in the instructions.
7. **Tighten and Secure:** Systematically tighten all fasteners according to the torque specifications provided in the manual. Ensure all clamps are firmly gripping the vehicle's roof or fixed points. Do not overtighten.
8. **Final Check:** Before driving, double-check all connections and ensure the rack is securely mounted and stable. Gently shake the rack to confirm it is firmly attached.

**For detailed, step-by-step visual instructions, always refer to the official Thule installation manual**

specific to your roof rack system and this fit kit.

### 3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once your Thule roof rack system is correctly installed with the Kit 5297, it is ready for use. Adhere to the following guidelines for safe operation:

- **Load Capacity:** Never exceed the maximum load capacity specified for your Thule roof rack system or your vehicle's roof, whichever is lower. Refer to both manuals for this information.
- **Secure Loads:** Always ensure that any cargo or accessories mounted on the roof rack are securely fastened. Use appropriate straps, tie-downs, or Thule-compatible carriers (e.g., bike racks, cargo boxes).
- **Weight Distribution:** Distribute the weight of your load evenly across the roof rack to maintain vehicle stability and prevent undue stress on the rack components.
- **Driving Adjustments:** Be aware that carrying a load on your roof rack can affect your vehicle's handling, braking, and fuel consumption. Drive cautiously, especially when cornering or in windy conditions.
- **Height Clearance:** Remember that your vehicle's overall height will increase with a roof rack and load. Be mindful of low clearances, such as garages, carports, and drive-thrus.
- **Regular Checks:** Periodically check the tightness of all mounting bolts and straps, especially during long journeys or after driving on rough terrain.

### 4. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance will prolong the life of your Thule Roof Rack System Installation Kit 5297 and ensure its continued safe operation:

- **Cleaning:** Clean the rack components regularly with mild soap and water. Avoid harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners that could damage the finish or materials.
- **Inspect for Wear:** Periodically inspect all parts, including the pads, clamps, and bolts, for signs of wear, corrosion, or damage. Replace any worn or damaged components immediately.
- **Lubrication:** If applicable, lubricate moving parts or locking mechanisms with a silicone-based lubricant to ensure smooth operation.
- **Seasonal Storage:** If you remove the roof rack for extended periods, store it in a clean, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Check Torque:** Re-check the torque of all mounting bolts periodically, especially after the first few uses and before each long trip.

### 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are some common issues and general troubleshooting tips for your Thule roof rack system:

- **Rack Feels Loose:**
  - Ensure all mounting bolts are tightened to the specified torque.
  - Verify that the fit kit components (pads and clamps) are correctly seated on your vehicle's roof.
  - Check for any missing or damaged components that might affect stability.

- **Excessive Wind Noise:**

- Ensure crossbars are correctly positioned and not twisted.
- Check for any gaps or loose components that could cause whistling.
- Consider adding a Thule Wind Fairing (sold separately) to reduce noise.

- **Difficulty Attaching Accessories:**

- Verify that your accessories are compatible with your specific Thule crossbar type (e.g., WingBar, SquareBar).
- Ensure the accessory clamps or T-track adapters are correctly installed.

- **Scratches on Vehicle Roof:**

- Ensure the rubber pads of the fit kit are clean and free of debris before installation.
- Verify that the pads are correctly positioned and not shifted during installation or use.
- Always clean the roof surface thoroughly before installing the rack.

If you encounter persistent issues not covered here, please contact Thule customer support or consult a certified Thule dealer.

## 6. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Value
Brand	Thule
Model Name	Kit 5297
Item Model Number	145297
Color	Black
Size	One Size
Material Type	Plastic
Included Components	Fit Kit
Department	Unisex Adult
Manufacturer	Thule
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	16 x 16 x 7.6 cm
Product Weight	820 grams
ASIN	B09MGCHRWH
Date First Available	December 5, 2021
Discontinued by Manufacturer	No
Foldable	No

UPC	091021749245
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## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Thule Roof Rack System Installation Kit 5297 is covered by Thule's limited warranty. For specific details regarding the warranty period, coverage, and claims process, please refer to the warranty information included with your product or visit the official Thule website.

For further assistance, technical support, or to find a certified Thule dealer, please visit the official Thule support page or contact their customer service directly. Always use genuine Thule replacement parts for repairs to maintain product integrity and warranty validity.