



Hitch Mounted Bike Racks

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 Equipment



I have a question about rear hitch mounted bike racks which are readily available in stores. We use one with 4 bikes on it for our family and when the 4 bikes are loaded they obstruct the view of the rear licence plate, brake lights and turn signals. The corner lights can be seen through the spokes of the bike wheels but not clearly. Any opinion on this because these are widely used?



You seem to have described the problems associated with this type of bicycle carrier clearly yourself.

Obstructed Lights and Reflectors

The **Motor Vehicle Act Regulations** say the following:

General maintenance

4.04 (2) Lamps and reflectors required by this Division

(c) must not be shielded, covered or obscured by any part of the vehicle or load or by dirt or other material.

Lights and reflectors on the rear of the vehicle must be mounted as far apart as practicable.

The hazard might be greatest during the day when bright sunlight coupled with this obstruction prevents the brake or signal lights from being visible to a driver following you. The resulting rear end collision would certainly be considered to be at least partially your fault.

Obstructed Rear Licence Plate

With regard to the license plate:

Plates to be unobstructed

3.03 A number plate must be kept entirely unobstructed and free from dirt or foreign material, so that the numbers and letters on it may be plainly seen and read at all times and so that the numbers and letters may be accurately photographed using a speed monitoring device or traffic light safety device prescribed under section 83.1 of the Act.

Intersection Safety Cameras

In order for enforcement by **intersection safety cameras** to be effective, the rear licence plate of the vehicle must be able to be photographed. When they are not, the driver of the vehicle may be issued a violation ticket with a penalty of \$230. It appears that police currently issue **about 100 of these tickets** each year in B.C.

A Suggested Solution

Before you scrap the rack or sell it to some other unsuspecting purchaser, it could easily be made legal again. Moving the license plate to the back of it along with duplicating the lights that are obstructed on the vehicle would not be expensive or difficult to do. Beacon Light is manufactured in Canada (Calgary, AB) and addresses both issues: obscured lights and license plate.

