



HITCH, 2" Receiver, Ford Escape, 2013-2019

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

READ ALL WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE INSTALLATION

⚠ WARNING: The manufacturer of your vehicle may specify towing capacities lower than the capacities noted below. Never exceed the vehicle manufacturer's recommended towing capacity. Consult your vehicle's owner's manual for the manufacturer's recommended towing capacity for your specific vehicle.

⚠ WARNING: Failure to adhere to the exact torque specifications noted in these installation instructions can result in property damage and/or bodily injury. Failure to follow all specifications and instructions will void the hitch warranty.

NOTICE:

Always use proper tools and safety equipment to ensure a safe and quality installation. Inspection of the trailer hitch should be performed before and after each use to ensure all mounting hardware is tight and related hitch components are secure.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Moderate

Installation difficulty levels are based on the time and effort required. They will vary depending on the installer's expertise. Vehicle condition could be a factor in the level of difficulty for a proper installation.

WEIGHT CARRYING CAPACITY	
Gross Trailer Weight (GTWR)	4,500 LBS
Tongue Weight (TW)	675 LBS

WEIGHT DISTRIBUTING CAPACITY	
Gross Trailer Weight (GTWR)	5,000 LBS
Tongue Weight (TW)	500 LBS

TOOLS REQUIRED			
RATCHET	6" OR 9" EXTENSION	13mm SOCKET	17mm SOCKET
TORQUE WRENCH	AVIATION SHEARS	ROTARY TOOL	SAFETY GLASSES

INSTALLATION:

1. Remove the four M8 hex head screws securing the two rear-most exhaust hangers, one on each side of the muffler, to the bottom face of the frame rails using the 13mm socket, socket extension and ratchet. Detach the rubber exhaust isolator forward of the muffler to provide enough clearance for hitch installation. Ensure that the exhaust is supported before removing any of the exhaust hangers to prevent damage to the exhaust system.
2. Trim both exhaust shields using tin snips or aviation shears to remove the portion that covers the bottom face of the frame rails where the hitch will be installed. Leave 4" remaining on each side to retain the forward, outboard fastener securing each heat shield to the bottom of the frame rail.
3. Locate the hardware access hole on each side of the vehicle and enlarge the openings with a rotary tool or air saw such that the head of the carriage bolts will pass through.
4. Locate the two hardware mounting holes on the bottom of each frame rail as well as the single mounting hole on the outside face of the frame rail. Using both the standard and the reverse fishwire technique, install a 7/16-14 UNC carriage bolt (**ITEM 1**) and square hole spacer (**ITEM 2**) into each of the six holes, leaving the fishwires attached to the carriage bolts.
5. Lift the hitch into position while feeding the fishwires through their respective mounting holes on the hitch. Sequentially, remove the fishwires and thread a 7/16-14 UNC flanged hex nut (**ITEM 3**) onto each of the six protruding carriage bolts, being careful not to lose a fastener inside the frame rail.

continued on next page

6. Raise exhaust back into it's correct position and reattach the forward-most rubber exhaust isolator. Resecure both rear muffler hangers using the new M8 hex head screws (**ITEM 5**) and 5/16 flat washers (**ITEM 4**) provided in the hardware pack.
7. Torque all 7/16-14 fasteners to 70 ft-lb and all M8 fasteners to 23 ft-lb.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY
1	7/16 x 1-1/2 Carriage Bolt, GR8	6
2	7/16 Square Hole Spacer	6
3	7/16 Serrated Flange Nut	6
4	5/16" Flat Washer	4
5	M8x1.25, 30, HHCS	4

