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# Instructions
# Base Rail Installation Kit

## For **5th Wheel Hitch** P/N 5461601
## *Accessory Base Rails w/Installation Kit P/N 5461605*
## *Base Rail Installation Kit P/N 3019045*

***Dealer/Installer –*** A copy of these instructions should be given to the end user. Important information, such as operation, safety, and proper usage is listed inside. Demonstrate and confirm that the end user fully understands the proper use of the product.

***End User –*** This entire manual should be read and followed. If assistance is needed contact your dealer.

**⚠ WARNING**

**Read and follow all of these instructions. Failure to do so may result in serious injury or death!**

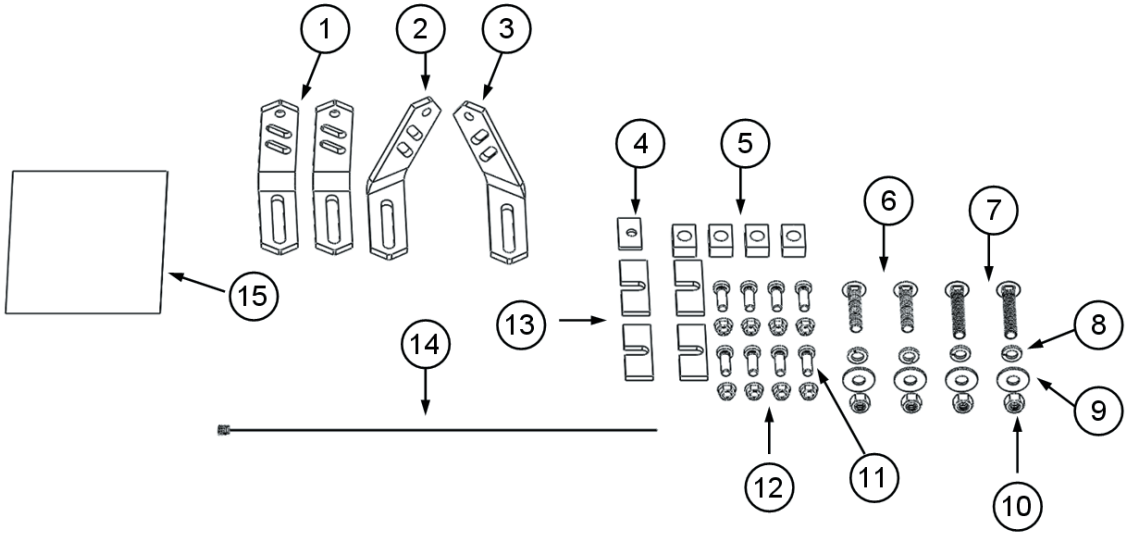
## Required Tools

These tools are required for proper assembly and installation of the base rails, and are not provided.

- ¾" wrenches or sockets
- 15/16" wrenches or sockets
- Ratchet
- 7/32" drill bit
- Drill
- Torque wrench with a 100 ft-lb range
- Safety glasses
- Gloves

## Parts List

| Part | Description | Qty |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Straight Mounting Bracket | 2 |
| 2 | Angled Mounting Bracket, Left | 1 |
| 3 | Angled Mounting Bracket, Right | 1 |
| 4 | Spacer Plate, 3/16" | 1 |
| 5 | Spacer Block, ¾" | 4 |
| 6 | Carriage Bolt, 5/8"-11 x 3" | 2 |
| 7 | Carriage Bolt, 5/8"-11 x 3-1/2" | 2 |
| 8 | Spring Lock Washer, 5/8" | 4 |
| 9 | Flat Washer, 5/8" | 4 |
| 10 | Hex Nut, 5/8"-11 | 4 |
| 11 | Wheel Bolt, ½"-13 | 8 |
| 12 | Flange Locknut, ½"-13 | 8 |
| 13 | Spacer Plate | 4 |
| 14 | Pull Wire, ½" | 1 |
| 15 | Instructions | 1 |




*—continued inside*

**⚠ CAUTION**

**Base rails cannot be installed over a plastic bed liner. Cut the plastic bed liner out of the way, if already installed in the bed. Base rails can be installed on spray-in bed liners. However, confirm the recommended curing time of the spray-in bed liner before installing base rails.**

**⚠ WARNING**

**There must be at least 52" between the hitch and the cab. Any less will result in the in the trailer hitting the cab on tight turns. This will cause damage and possible injury. On trucks with 6½ ft and 8ft beds the hitch centerline can be up to 3" ahead of the axle. Base rails cannot be used on a truck with a bed length of less than 6½ ft.**

## Initial Layout

The two base rails should be set across the width of the truck bed between the wheel wells. Insert the tabs of the 5th wheel uprights into the slots at either end of each base rail. The uprights can then be secured in place by using the hitch pins and hair pins included with the 5th wheel hitch hardware kit. Securely attach the 5th wheel hitch cross member to the uprights. Base rails should be parallel to each other and square.

## Positioning

Position the 5th wheel hitch assembly so that it's centered over the truck axle and between the wheel wells on the floor of the bed. This will work in most applications. See pages 5 and 6 for vehicle specific tips.

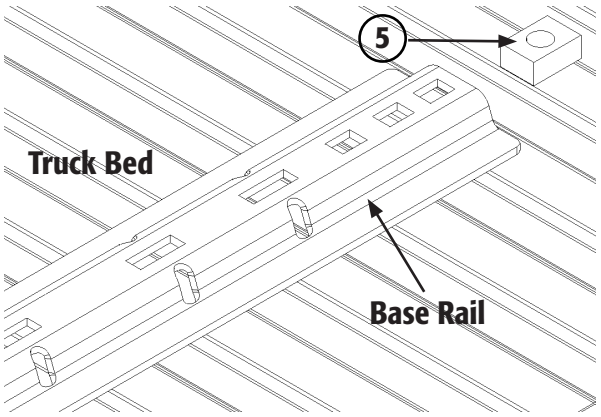
## Verify, Mark, and Drill

Verify that the base rails are parallel and square, and that the hitch is correctly positioned in the bed. Determine which of the (3) 5/8" square holes at the end of each base rail line up best with the truck frame. The four attachment points on the truck bed can then be marked. Before drilling holes through the bed, confirm that there are no obstructions beneath the bed, such as brake lines or electrical wiring that will be contacted by the drill. The base rails, uprights, and cross member can now be moved. Do not disassemble the parts to do this. Drill four 5/8" holes through the bed at the marked points.

## Using Spacer Blocks

The base rails, uprights, and cross member can now be placed back in the bed. Line up the correct square 5/8" hole at the end of each base rail with the corresponding drilled hole in the truck bed. A ¾" spacer block (item 5) should be placed under the ends of each bed rail and lined up with the drilled hole as shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1.**



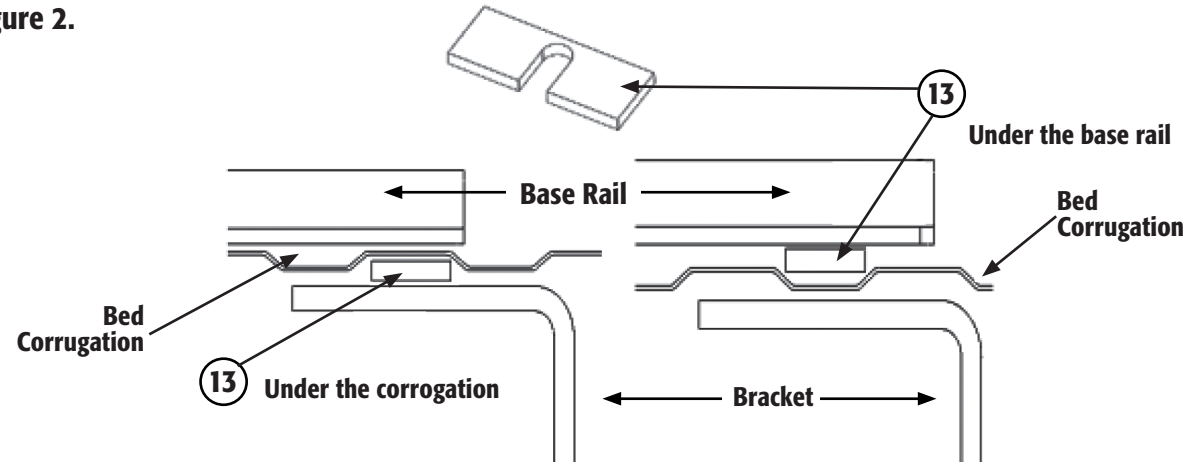

## Using Spacer Plates

Spacer plates are used to fill the gap left between the corrugated bed and the mounting brackets (beneath the bed) or base rails (on top of the bed). Refer to Figure 2 on the next page. If the corrugation above the mounting bracket is up, place a spacer plate between the mounting bracket and underside of the bed. If the corrugation above the mounting bracket is down, place the spacer plate between the topside of the bed and the base rail. Insert the (item 6) 5/8" carriage bolts through the top of the base rails.

## Straight vs. Angled Mounting Brackets

Position one of the straight mounting brackets under the bed and align it with the 5/8" carriage bolt that was inserted through the base rail. In some cases, frame obstructions will not allow

**Figure 2.**




use of a straight mount bracket. If this happens use the right and left angled mounting brackets. If space is not an issue the mounting brackets can be placed at any of the (4) required mounting locations. Move the installed mounting brackets so that they rest tightly against the flat side of the truck frame beneath the truck bed.

## Carriage Bolt Length & Torque Rating

Two different 5/8" carriage bolt lengths have been provided (items 6 & 7). The shorter 3" bolts should be used when frame clearance is too close to the attachment point. Bolt mounting brackets securely into place. Mounting brackets must be tight against the truck frame. Torque 5/8" bolts to 125-160 ft. lbs.

## Drilling Frame Mounting Holes

Before drilling frame holes, confirm there are no obstructions inside the frame, such as brake lines or electrical wiring that will be contacted by the drill. See special instructions if the vehicle is a 1999 or newer Chevrolet Silverado or GMC Sierra. Drill two 17/32" holes through the side of truck frame using two of the holes in each mounting bracket as a guide. If holes are drilled too small, the bolts may break. If they are drilled too big, the bolts will not seat properly.

## 1999 and Newer Chevrolet Silverado or GMC Sierra

The bolt installation procedure on the forward driver side mounting bracket will need to be modified from the other three. A 5/8" diameter hole will need to be drilled at the lower bracket attachment point. Place one of the ½" wheel bolts (item 11) in the 3/16" spacer plate (item 4). This bolt assembly can now be inserted through the frame as shown in Figure B (Page 4). Bolt the mounting bracket in place at this location. The other three mounting brackets will install as shown in Figure A.

## Attaching Frame Mounting Brackets & Torque Rating

Insert two ½-13 wheel bolts (item 11) through each of the four mounting bracket to secure them to the frame. The ½-13 wheel bolts must be inserted through the frame and then the mounting bracket as shown in Figure A. The provided pull wire (item 14) may be needed to align bolts into the drilled frame holes. To use the pull wire, coil the end of the wire around the wheel bolt and pull it through the frame as shown in the "Pull Wire" Figure (page 4). The knurled portion of the bolts will lock into the frame holes and seat as the nuts are tightened. Pneumatic tools can be used and will make installation easier. Torque all ½" attachment bolts to 75 ft. lbs.

**⚠ WARNING**

**Warning: Do not attempt to mount the base rails or 5th wheel hitch on a truck with a bed length of less than 6 ½ ft.**

## Checking the Installation

Each base rail hitch pin should be checked for freedom of movement in the base rail connection. Remove the (4) hitch pins and lift the uprights out of the base rail slots.

If upright tabs are tight in the base rail slots, check to be sure that the base rails are parallel to each other and square. If not, loosen the 5/8" bolts and adjust the base rails. The uprights should also be checked to make sure they are sitting straight.

It may be necessary to shim the uprights by placing a shim between it and the cross member channel, as shown in Figure C. Four (4) shims are provided with the uprights. Re-tighten the 5/8" bolts. Torque 5/8" bolts to 125-160 ft. lbs.

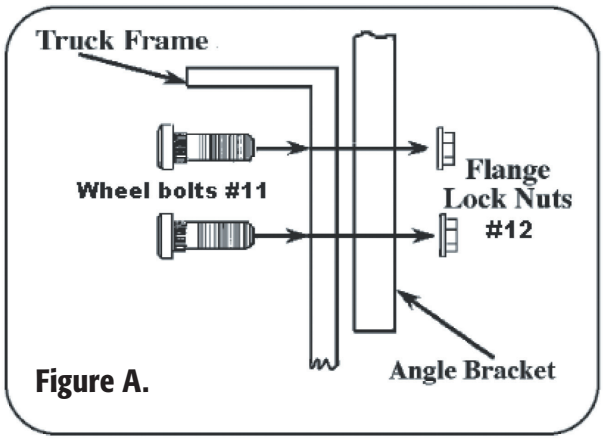


Figure A.

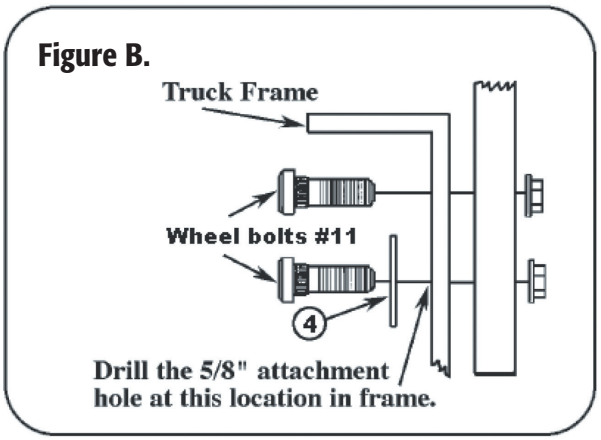
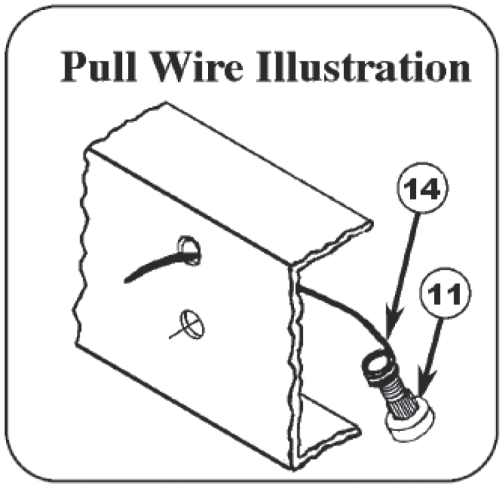


Figure B.



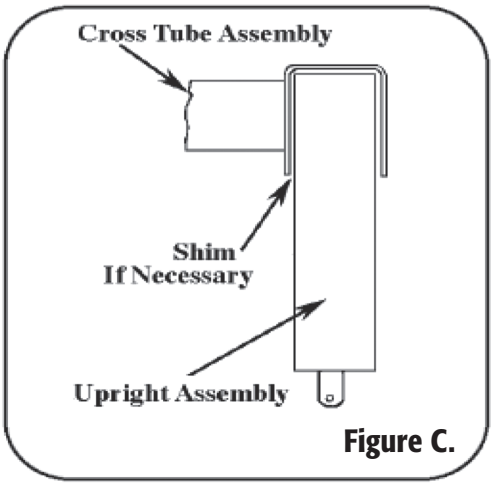



Figure C.

## Vehicle Specific Installation Tips

Below is a list of vehicle specific installation tips. Vehicles do vary from year to year, so your truck may be slightly different then what's listed. This information is to be used as a suggestion for base rail placement. Slight adjustments may be necessary.

### Chevy/GMC Pickup: 1988-2000 C/K Long Bed (over the axle installation)

The 5th wheel hitch should be positioned so that its center line is over the truck axle center line. The distance between the rear most base rail and the back edge of the truck bed should be 29-7/8". See Figure D. The right and left angled mounting brackets may be placed at whatever location gives the best attachment points on the frame. Use the angled mounting brackets opposite of opposing shock absorbers.

### Dodge Pickup: 1999 + Silverado/Sierra Long Bed (ahead of axle installation)

The 5th wheel hitch should be positioned so that its center line is forward of the truck axle center line. The distance between the rear most base rail and the back edge of the truck bed should be 31-1/2". See Figure D. The right and left angled mounting brackets must be places at the rear attachment points.

The straight mounting brackets must be places at the forward attachment points. It will be necessary to use the pull wire (item 14) to pull the wheel bolt into the forward boxed frame section. The right and left angled mounting brackets may be placed at whatever location gives the best attachment points on the frame. Use the angled mounting brackets opposite of opposing shock absorbers.

### Dodge Pickup: 1993 and Earlier Long Bed (ahead of axle installation)

The 5th wheel hitch should be positioned so that its center line is 2" ahead of the truck axle center line. The distance between the rear most base rail and the back edge of the truck bed should be 32-1/2". See Figure D. The right and left angled mounting brackets may be placed at whatever location gives the best attachment points on the frame.

### Dodge Pickup: 1994 and Newer Long Bed

This mounting kit will not work with 1994 and newer Dodge pickup trucks.

### Ford Pickup: 1973 - 1991 F-Series Long Bed (over the axle installation)

The 5th wheel hitch should be positioned so that its center line is over the truck axle center line. The distance between the rear most base rail and the back edge of the truck bed should be 28-5/8". See Figure D. Use the right and left angled mounting brackets to clear the stock mount brackets when attaching to the side of the truck frame (rear attachments).

### Ford Pickup: 1992 - 1996 F-150/F-250 & 1997 -1998 F-250 HD Long Bed (over the axle installation)

The 5th wheel hitch should be positioned so that its center line is over the truck axle center line. The distance between the rear most base rail and the back edge of the truck bed should be 28-5/8". See Figure D. This will place both of the base rail attachment points, to the rear of both under bed vehicle cross members. Use the right and left angled mounting brackets to clear the stock mount brackets when attaching to the side of the truck frame.

### Ford Pickup: 1997 – 1998 F-350 (behind the axle installation)

The 5th wheel hitch should be positioned so that its center line is to the rear of the truck axle center line. This is due to heavy-duty suspension components. The distance between the rear most base rail and the back edge of the truck bed should be 26-3/4". See Figure D. Check angled mounting bracket against frame attachment points to find the best location. Position the mounting brackets as close to the axle centerline as possible.

### Ford Pickup: 1997 – 2004 F-150/F-250. HD F-250 & 2004 "New Body Style" not included (over the axle installation)

The 5th wheel hitch should be positioned so that its center line is over the truck axle center line. The distance between the rear most base rail and the back edge of the truck bed should be 26-3/4". See Figure D. Use the right and left angled mounting brackets at the rear mounting locations. In some cases, the base rail attachment holes may have to be drilled down through the front under bed reinforcement channel of the truck. If so, contact your Buyers Products dealer to order spacer kit P/N 3020784.

### Ford Pickup: 1999 – 2002 F-250/F-350 Super Duty (over the axle installation)

The 5th wheel hitch should be positioned so that its center line is over the truck axle center line. The distance between the rear most base rail and the back edge of the truck bed should be 28-1/4". See Figure D. Temporally remove the spring bracket on the side of the frame, if the truck is equipped with overload springs. Holes in the frame and spring brackets must be enlarged to accept the ½" bolts. Use the angled mounting brackets on the rear base rails and straight mounting brackets on the front base rails. The rear angled mounting brackets will line up with the overload spring brackets that were removed. Reinstall the spring brackets on top of the angled mounting brackets. The rear spring bracket mounting points will require 3/8" thick spacers and longer ½" bolts (not supplied).

### Toyota Pickup: 1999 – 2006 Tundra (over the axle installation)

The 5th wheel hitch should be positioned so that its center line is over the truck axle center line. The distance between the rear most base rail and the back edge of the truck bed should be 30-7/8". See Figure D. The right and left angled brackets will be placed at the forward attachment points and the straight mounting brackets will be placed at the rear attachment points.

**Figure D.**