

Guide for the use of ACT Bike Rack Number Plates

Why do I need a number plate for my bike rack?

The majority of bike racks designed for mounting on a vehicle's tow bar are constructed in such a fashion that they obscure the vehicle's rear number plate, which is an offence under the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Act 1999*.

To overcome the problem, a special, additional number plate can be purchased from the Road Transport Authority and should be attached to the bike rack in a visible position. The special number plate does not replace the need for the vehicle's rear number plate.

Why do I have to remove the bike rack when it is not being used?

Removal is necessary for two reasons:

1. To protect other people (third parties) from injury.
 - Because it protrudes from the rear of the vehicle, the bike rack can cause injury to other people who are unaware it is there. Children moving around the vehicle are particularly vulnerable.
 - You may be liable for these injuries.
2. To prevent damage to the vehicle's tow bar.
 - There is evidence to suggest that the combination of light weight and slender column type construction of the bike racks can cause a high frequency vibration, leading to metal fatigue of the tow bar tongue and ultimately its failure.
 - If the tow bar tongue should fail while being used for towing, there is a very real risk of the trailer, caravan etc. colliding with someone and/or another vehicle.

What else should I do to minimise the risk of injury to other people?

Padding should be applied to any sharp projections on the bike rack that cannot be removed.

Are there any other modifications I am required to make?

Any mandatory lights on the rear of the vehicle that are obscured by the bike rack must be duplicated so they are clearly visible when the bike rack is attached. These include brake, indicator, reversing and number plate lights.

If the tow bar is also used for towing, there should be a trailer light socket located near the tow bar, which can be used to connect the duplicate lights. If not, a socket will need to be fitted.

What do bike rack number plates look like?

“Y” series number plate



Personalised number plate



Custom number plates



Bike rack number plates are manufactured with holes pre drilled. They cannot be manufactured without holes.

For further information contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.