



## **2005 Thule Hitch Mount Bike Rack XT Series Released to Car Rack Retailers Nationwide**

*With significantly improved features, including redesigned and innovative stability cradles and cages, the 2005 XT Series of Thule hitch bike racks takes aim at easing both price and difficulty in loading bikes for vehicle transport.*

Montpelier, VT ([PRWEB](http://www.prweb.com)) April 20, 2005 -Â National retailer of car and truck rack systems for sports gear and commercial applications, ORS Racks Direct, announced today the company is featuring the all-new 2005 Thule Racks complete line of redesigned and updated hitch bike racks. With the exception of the Thule Parkway Series, which is a new design for 2005, all the Thule bike hitch racks have been re-engineered with new upgrades and will retain the same name along with the XT extension included. Most significantly is Thule's innovative T3 Cradles and No Sway Cages, eliminating virtually all bike swing for a very stable transport design. The T3 Cradles and No Sway Cages are included with all higher end hitch bike rack models and available as an optional upgrade on most others.

General Manager of Sales and Operations, Shawn Standen, said "We are particularly excited about this years' line up of hitch bicycle racks from Thule. The new stabilizing features of the cradles signify a new level of bicycle stability previously unavailable to our customers. The fact that this is integrated into the cradles also means there are far fewer steps necessary in loading up bikes and hitting the road. Previously the Thule Zip Stick accessory was necessary to secure the bikes to the carrier. This meant not only additional cost for another accessory but also more steps involved in the loading process." Mr. Standen further explained, "The T3 Cradles are much more friendly in accomodating virtually all bike frames including kids bikes, womens bikes, bmx and downhill mountain bike frames. This also eliminates the need for the Thule Top Tube Adapter, another accessory that is offered at additional cost allowing non-traditional bicycle frames to work with hitch bicycle carriers."

Suggested retail pricing for the 2005 series ranges from \$129.99 for the no-frills, economy two bicycle 958 Parkway ( image available at <http://www.orsracksdirect.com/thule-958-parkway-hitch-bike-rack.html> ) to \$399.00 for the 998XT Trailblazer ( image available at <http://www.orsracksdirect.com/thule-998xt-trailblazer-hitch-bike-rack.html> ), a fully featured swing away system that includes all stability and security options.

### **About Thule, Inc.**

Thule, Inc., is a wholly owned subsidiary of Thule Holding AB, which is owned by the Swedish investment company EQT. Founded in 1942, Thule develops, manufactures, and markets car rack systems for vehicle owners worldwide. Thule Racks is the only major United States manufacturer of car and truck rack products, with 90% of Thule U.S. products produced in the company's Chicago, Illinois and Seymour, Connecticut facilities. Thule's product line features multi-purpose roof rack systems, hitch and roof top cargo boxes, rear mount carriers and accessories for transporting outdoor gear including ski, snowboard, bike, kayaks, canoe, and surfboard equipment.

### **About ORS Racks Direct**

ORS Racks Direct is a privately held company specializing in comprehensive sales and service of car and truck rack systems. Representing the industry's most respected manufacturers, including Thule Racks and Yakima Racks, the company offers high quality truck rack, bike rack, snowboard-ski rack, kayak-canoe rack and windsurfer-surfboard rack solutions for vehicle rear hitch and trunk mount, roof rack mount and pickup truck



mount applications. The company has been providing consumer sales for over three decades to the U.S. market through multi-channel outlets that include store front, internet and phone sales.

Their full line of Thule hitch bike rack systems is available for review at <http://www.orsracksdirect.com/thule-hitch-mount-bike-rack.html>. For more information on the complete line of Thule Racks offered visit <http://www.orsracksdirect.com/thule-racks.html>

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