Bikes on CTA and Pace


CTA Trains

Bicycles are permitted on CTA trains (The 'L') every day, except during weekday rush periods (7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.) – up to 2 regular bikes per car. Bicycles are also not allowed on July 3 or 4, or when trains are full.

Note: Certain railcars on the Blue Line have folding doors that swing inward and cannot accommodate bicycles. Only enter cars with green decals that show that bicycles are allowed inside.

If you need help getting your bike in and out of a station (bypass gate in station that is not ADA accessible), see a Customer Assistant or other station attendant for assistance.

Due to layout/entrance gates that don’t accommodate bikes, entering or exiting at Blue line/Irving Park and Green line/King Drive is NOT recommended. Go to an adjacent station instead.


All buses have front-mounted racks that hold 2 regular bikes. Bikes are allowed to use these racks at all times. Remove all panniers, water bottles, and other heavy items or things that may fall off before putting your bike on the rack. Tell the bus driver you’ll be loading your bike before you start. Lower the rack by squeezing the center handle. If another bike is in position, the rack will already be lowered. If the rack is full, please wait for the next bus.

Locks may not be used to secure bicycles to racks. If you are concerned about the safety of your bicycle, lock your bicycle’s front wheel to the bicycle frame before the bus arrives.

There are 2 different types of racks on CTA buses.

Byk Rak (red wheel arms) only:
While supporting the bicycle with one hand, swing the red bicycle support arm outward and down to clear the wheel well.

When unloading your bike, remember to do the reverse, swinging the red arm back over the wheel well.

Lift your bicycle so it sits in the empty wheel well. If yours is the first to be loaded, load it in the position nearest the bus, with the front wheel facing the curb. If yours is the second to be loaded, load with the rear wheel facing the curb in the front position.
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Byk Rak only: Swing the bicycle support arm over the front tire to hold the bicycle in place.

When unloading, swing the red arm away from the wheel and take your bike off the rack.

Sportworks (yellow arm) only: Pull the spring-loaded support arm out and upwards. Fasten it over the front tire at the highest point of the wheel to hold the bicycle in place.

When unloading, pull the arm up from the wheel and swing it down into its resting position on the rack.

Board the bus and pay your fare. Sitting near the front where you can see the bike is a good idea. When you reach your destination, get off at the front and tell the driver you’re unloading your bike before you start. After unloading, if there is no other bike on the rack, squeeze the center handle on the rack and stow the rack against the bus in the upright position.

CTA’s bikes on the bus info page has a video if you’d like to see this in action. There’s more helpful info on this page. [http://www.transitchicago.com/riding_cta/how_to_guides/bikebus.aspx](http://www.transitchicago.com/riding_cta/how_to_guides/bikebus.aspx)

The Pace system works in a similar way. [http://www.pacebus.com/sub/bus_system/bicycle_racks.asp](http://www.pacebus.com/sub/bus_system/bicycle_racks.asp)

On both CTA and Pace, there is no additional charge for transporting a bike. Folding bikes can be folded and carried on board. Tandems and other non-standard bikes (longer or taller than normal) can’t be safely carried on bus racks and are not allowed.