

Guidelines for Installing your Roofnest on a Platform Roof Rack



Platform racks can be a great way to create a big, stable base for your Roofnest roof top tent. Roofnests are designed to mount to a two crossbars roof rack so mounting to a platform rack can require extra parts or additional steps.

- One of the challenges with platform racks is that because they are low profile, there isn't enough room to mount and tighten the hardware while the rack is on your vehicle. Consequently, you will often need to mount the Roofnest to your rack before mounting the rack to your vehicle (some racks allow you to remove just the slats or cross-members rather than the whole rack).
- Platform racks will either have their slats running left-to-right or front-to-back. Because Roofnests are designed to mount to crossbars, they can often be mounted to platforms with left-to-right slats without additional parts or steps.
- We will cover some of the main brands here but the concepts can be applied to any platform rack on the market - you will need to decide how you will mount your Roofnest but these guidelines can help you come up with a plan for your rack and what you want to achieve.

There is a Facebook group called the [Roofnest Flock](#) which has 1000+ users and is a good place to seek advice from other customers if the guidelines below don't cover your situation.

The Racks

Rhino-Rack Pioneer Platform



There are two ways to mount your Roofnest to the Pioneer platform. One involves drilling holes into the slats (best if you want the lowest profile mounting solution) and the other involves using brackets from a 3rd party.

The [Front Runner RTT mounting brackets](#) work well and can be attached to your Pioneer platform directly. Then you can use four of the mounting bolts provided with your Roofnest to attach the tent to the brackets. [This video](#) provides a good overview of using these brackets with platform racks and some of the considerations.

If you choose to drill holes and mount directly, you'll likely need to remove the platform from your vehicle.

- First measure the exact center-to-center distance between the mounting rails on your Roofnest.
- Then determine exactly where you want the Roofnest to sit on your platform and drill four holes in the slats with the left-to-right spacing you measured and 36-48 inches front-to-back.
- Now you can insert four bolts into your Roofnest mounting rails, line these up with the holes you've drilled, attach the Roofnest directly to your Pioneer platform, then reattach the Pioneer platform to your vehicle.

Prinsu Rack or Backbone Rack



Because this rack has horizontal slats, you can mount your Roofnest directly to it with the included mounting hardware.

Note: this rack has a lip on the outer edge of the frame so if you have a Sparrow (regular, XL, or EYE) you'll need to use a spacer between the rack and tent so the Sparrow does not rest on this lip - [we recommend this](#).

- It's easiest to remove two slats from the rack, mount these to your Roofnest, then reattach the slats to the rack frame. Choose two slats which are at least 24" apart and take exact measurements of the spacing as assembled into the rack, you will need to keep this exact spacing when mounted to the bottom of the Roofnest.
- Place the Roofnest upside down onto something soft to protect the shell then attach the two slats to the bottom of the Roofnest at the exact spacing you measured using the Roofnest mounting hardware.
- Reattach the slats onto the rack frame.

Front Runner Slimline Platform Rack



Because this rack has horizontal slats, you can mount your Roofnest directly to it with the included mounting hardware. [Please watch this video](#) for some considerations and options when mounting to a Front Runner platform rack.

- It's easiest to remove two slats from the rack, mount these to your Roofnest, then reattach the slats to the rack frame. Choose two slats which are at least 24" apart and take exact measurements of the spacing as assembled into the rack, you will need to keep this exact spacing when mounted to the bottom of the Roofnest.
- Place the Roofnest upside down onto something soft to protect the shell then attach the two slats to the bottom of the Roofnest at the exact spacing you measured using the Roofnest mounting hardware.
- Reattach the slats onto the rack frame.
- You can also use [these brackets](#) or [these brackets](#) instead of mounting directly to the Front Runner rack.

Gobi Roof Rack



Because this rack has horizontal slats, you can mount your Roofnest directly to it with the included mounting hardware.

- It's easiest to remove two crossbars from the rack, mount these to your Roofnest, then reattach the crossbars to the rack frame.
- Place the Roofnest upside down onto something soft to protect the shell then attach the two crossbars to the bottom of the Roofnest about 36-48" apart.
- Reattach the crossbars onto the rack frame. (Depending on the size of your forearms, you may be able to mount your Roofnest to the rack without removing the crossbars.)

Thanks for reading this platform rack guide - we hope you found it helpful! Happy camping!

Need help or tips for anything else?

You can always email us at support@roofnest.com for any questions you may have about your Roofnest.