

3.) PREPARING/PROTECTING YOUR BIKE FOR TRUCK TRANSPORT

This info is available at our website, but we want the June Letter to be your complete guide to PBV. Here it is again.

PORK BELLY VENTURES DOES NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE TO BIKES THAT ARE NOT FULLY BOXED

When transporting bikes on trucks, we've had only a few mishaps in more than 20 years--truck contents shifted and gouged the top tube of a beautiful, completely unprotected bike. Somehow, another nice bike got scratched in transit. Since then, we have recommended that all Porkers fully box bikes for truck transport. Keep reading.

CARBON OR COMPOSITE WHEELS CAN BE DAMAGED BY HANGING AN UNBOXED BIKE FOR TRANSPORT

If you have carbon wheels, it's your responsibility to see that it's loaded properly by doing these things:

- Contact Dave Kennedy now at dave@pkbelly.com and let him know about your wheels.
- Prepare a large handlebar tag for your bike that says "DON'T HANG THIS BIKE." Present the bike for loading with your tag on the bars.
- Remind us again at the time of bike-loading so that we will load your bike without hanging it.

The Hanging System and Other Methods for Transporting Bikes

If for some reason fully boxing isn't possible for you, then here are some suggestions.

- At any hardware store, you can buy cheap pipe insulation to protect your frame's tubing.
- Tape it on the main triangle---top tube, down tube, and seat tube, forks, and chainstays.
- Cover your rear derailleur and other fragile components.
- Remove the computer or other accessories from your handlebars and frame.

Experience tells us that most of those on the East/West Shuttle will bring unboxed bikes to Dubuque for transport on our trucks. Consequently, our semi trailers will be outfitted to transport bikes in various ways:

- to hang unboxed bikes in rows--they're hung by a wheel, with the opposite wheel secured to D-rings in the truck floor by bungee cord
- to wall off bikes with cardboard
- to tie off bikes to the walls of the trailer
- to carry boxed bikes and boxed tandems, unboxed tandems, trikes, recumbents, trailers, and whatever you plan to ride across Iowa!

Please take the above precautions to protect your frame and components. On your June Form, there's a place to note the type of bike we will be transporting for you, and whether it will be boxed or unboxed.

If you fly your bike to Omaha or to Des Moines, it is best if you do not take it out of the box until we've trucked it to Onawa.

If you drive your bike to Omaha, you may not have car space for carrying boxed bikes. In Omaha, we'll have buses and trucks (not always semis) departing throughout the day. Though these trucks may not be outfitted to hang unboxed bikes, our crew will carefully load both boxed and unboxed bikes. We urge you to take the above precautions, protecting your frame and components, if you plan to give us an unboxed bike.

For our return to Omaha at the end of RAGBRAI, we'll have a semi outfitted to hang unboxed bikes, and other trailers for boxed ones, tandems, and recumbents.

Bottom line, we'll load your bike in whatever condition you like, but if it's not in a box, we assume no responsibility for damage.

Finally, if you take our advice and use pipe insulation or other packing material, plan to store it either in your hard shell bike case or in your duffel. We can't store it loose on our trucks. All bike boxes should be flattened for weeklong storage.