1. The Rack Element

Definition: **the rack element is the part of the bike rack that supports one bicycle.**

The rack element should:

- Support the bicycle upright by its frame in two places
- Prevent the wheel of the bicycle from tipping over
- Enable the frame and one or both wheels to be secured
- Support bicycles without a diamond-shaped frame with a horizontal top tube (e.g. a mixte frame)
- Allow front-in parking: a U-lock should be able to lock the front wheel and the down tube of an upright bicycle
- Allow back-in parking: a U-lock should be able to lock the rear wheel and seat tube of the bicycle

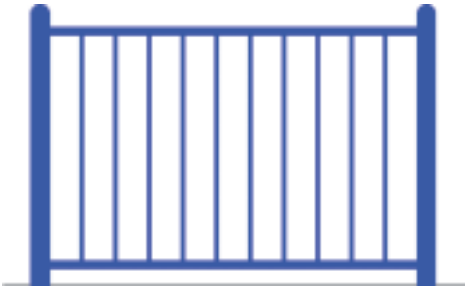
Comb, toast, school-yard, and other wheel-bending racks that provide no support for the bicycle frame are NOT recommended.

The rack element should resist being cut or detached using common hand tools, especially those that can be concealed in a backpack. Such tools include bolt cutters, pipe cutters, wrenches, and pry bars.

INVERTED "U"
One rack element supports two bikes.

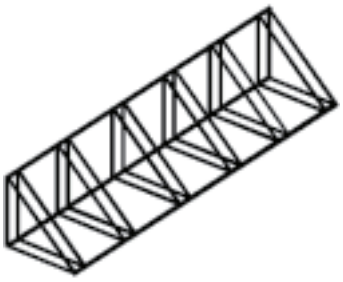
"A"
One rack element supports two bikes.

POST AND LOOP
One rack element supports two bikes.



COMB
One rack element is a vertical segment of the rack.

WAVE
One rack element is a vertical segment of the rack.



TOAST
One rack element holds one wheel of a bike.