

Roof cargo storage boxes are a great way to give your car a little extra space for transporting a whole host of bulky items from one location to another. But keeping your cargo storage box on your roof while you're not using it probably isn't the best idea. Not only will it increase your fuel consumption, but there's also a risk that somebody might try to steal it.

If you own a roof cargo box, then there will come a time when you'll want to store it. But how? In this guide, we're going to investigate everything you need to know about roof cargo box storage so that you're prepped and ready to look after your storage box, no matter how much or how little you use it. Because cargo boxes are large bulky items, storing them isn't always straightforward, so in this article, we're going to take an in-depth look at how you can do it correctly and get the most out of your purchase. After all, cargo boxes don't come cheap.

Choose Where You'll Keep Your Cargo Box

Because cargo boxes are large pieces of equipment, there are only a few places where you can keep them.

- **Garage.** The most obvious place for your cargo box is the garage. Here, you can keep your cargo box alongside other bulky items designed for outdoor use, like your bicycles. What's more, your garage probably has excellent security, making it a safe place to store what is otherwise a valuable piece of equipment.
- **Shed.** The shed is the next most obvious option for cargo box storage. However, security and space constraints make this option less appealing. We'll discuss storage formats below, but it's likely that your shed is already quite full of general household and garden equipment. Plus, it's not as accessible.
- **Attic.** The attic is another option for storing your cargo box. Attic storage won't suit everybody, but it could be useful for those who use their boxes just once or twice a year. If you use your cargo box more often - say, once per week - then you'll want to avoid the attic. Dragging a large cargo box up and down stairs every week is a substantial hassle. Finally, the hatch to your loft may be too small to accommodate a cargo box, putting it out of the running entirely.
- **Third-Party Self-Storage.** Third-party storage is an excellent option for people who don't have the luxury of a garage, shed or attic. Monthly fees are low, and you'll have the opportunity to store other infrequently-used items in your rented space.

Hoisting Your Cargo Box On And Off Your Car Roof

Cargo boxes are big and heavy, even when they're not full of stuff. Getting them on and off a vehicle, therefore, requires mechanical assistance. The good news is that you can buy a

range of roof box hoists. These use pulley mechanisms to lift your cargo box off the roof, allowing you to unpack the roof box from ground level or put it into storage.

Roof box hoists make it clear why the ideal place to store your roof box is in the garage. Cargo box hoists screw into the ceiling of your garage and use winches to lift your roof box into the air. Once the roof box is suspended at the right height, it can be gently lowered onto the vehicle parked below and secured in place.

Of course, you don't HAVE to install a cargo box pulley in a garage. Nothing is stopping you from using it to take up unused space in your shed, attic or basement. It's just that by installing it in the garage, you can easily lower it onto the roof of the parked car beneath.

With that said, the primary utility of hoists is their ability to easily suspend roof boxes from a height without the need to do any heavy lifting. Most systems allow you to pull on a cord and winch the roof box into place, leaving it suspended until you need it next.

Storage Hoist Options

- **PetrolScooter Car Roofbox.** [PetrolScooter](#) is a manufacturer of affordable cargo box rack pullies. Its ceiling storage hoist is an option for people who want to store their roof boxes without taking up any floor space in their home. The hoist system has a 30 kg weight limit (so you'll want to store your box empty) and can be installed in garages and basements, so long as the ceiling can support the weight.
- **CargoLoc Heavy Duty Garage Hoist.** CargoLoc's cargo box hoist is a lot more expensive than PetrolScooter's offering, but also far more robust. The kit comes with two nylon straps, solid steel winches and brackets, and additional rope for tying up loose ends. [CargoLoc](#) justifies the higher price with a weight limit of 100lbs. The hooks come coated with a special material to reduce friction. The hoisting action feels smoother, preventing damage to the straps and your roof box. The rationale behind the product, therefore, is to achieve maximum safety and durability, giving you something that will last forever if looked after correctly. You can install the CargoLoc hoist on ceilings up to 14 feet high. (Straps and cables are not long enough to accommodate ceilings higher than this).
- **StoreYourBoard Cargo Box Storage Hoist.** [StoreYourBoard](#) offers a similar product to CargoLoc. The company claims that its storage system will fit any cargo box and that it is quick and easy to install. Priced similarly to CargoLoc, StoreYourBoard include high-quality mounting hardware and two adjustable straps that wrap around the roof box, securing it in place. There's also a pro-loading bracket which connects the winch pulley to the horizontal alignment strap, preventing the two sides of your roof box from swinging when secured.

Storage Straps

Storage hoists aren't the only option, of course. There is a range of straps available too. Straps are cheaper than hoists. There's no need for expensive pulleys or bearing, just a pair of cords strong enough to hold a weighty object. The downside is that you'll have to lift the cargo box into place yourself.

[CargoLoc](#) offers another version of their product (minus the pulleys) which fits on a wall. The product comprises steel D-rings and bar buckles which screw into the wall and a pair of wide, adjustable straps which wrap around the cargo box. The nice thing about the CargoLoc straps is that they can be put practically anywhere and allow you to put your box high up, out of the way, without having to climb step-ladders to try to load it onto some ceiling-based rack.

Ceiling Lift Systems

Some companies offer a halfway house between basic storage straps and fully-fledged hoists. These lift systems are cheaper than hoists but will set you back a little more than straps.

[Hapro](#) markets its cargo roof box storage kit as a "lift" that customers can use to hoist their boxes without the use of pulleys or other cables. The kit comes with two straps. Users must affix the straps to their ceiling (presumably by supplying their own brackets and mounting hardware), and then wrap the straps around the roof box at ground level. The straps come with a metal ratchet mechanism - similar to the plastic ratchet you see on rucksacks. After mounting the straps on the ceiling, all you have to do is tighten them, and they pull the box into position.

Hapro's solution does have a couple of downsides. First, the strap may wear out after repeated hoisting. The straps rub against the sides of the roof box and on the ratchet mechanism which could lead to fraying and reduced lifespan. Second, the straps could also damage the roof box. The advantage of pulleys is that they remove friction from the system. The straps rub against the roof box while hoisting, damaging it in the process.

Finally, Hapro does not provide customers with any mechanical advantage. Users must rely on their own strength to winch the box into position, putting a strain not only on their bodies but also the ceiling fittings too.

Conclusion

So, in conclusion, what have we learned? We've found out that the best place to store a cargo box is in the garage. If you don't have a garage, then a self-storage container will work just as well. We've also discovered that it makes the most sense to mount hoists in the garage because doing so will allow you to easily place the cargo box on your vehicle when you want to use it - no heavy lifting required. Finally, we found out that although there are cheaper storage options on the market than hoists, they come with limitations.

Ultimately, the storage solution you choose for your roof cargo box depends on your circumstances. If you use your storage box all the time, then you'll want to keep it in an accessible place, like the garage. If however, you use it once or twice a year, then the attic or basement could be the best place.