

Roof Cargo Storage Guide Written by: graceunemy Roof Cargo Storage Guide There are numerous cargo box designs made of a huge range of materials and at different price points. So how do you decide which one is the best for you? Which one will fit your car and your needs? Which price point is absolutely necessary? With this cargo box guide, of course! Why a cargo box? The first logical question to ask is why should you spend money on this at all? Is it mandatory? Well, it kind of is. Unless you like stuffing your trunk more than full, or ask your passengers to sit with their luggage. especially if you find yourself traveling with big unfoldable objects such as baby strollers or pushchairs, which can take up so much space in the back that you can't even put your groceries there anymore. Whether you are a regular vacationer and travel with a big luggage or if you or your child are into a sport that requires transporting bulky equipment back and forth, either way, a roof cargo box storage is your best option. You'll also be grateful you bought one in case you decide go on a long drive in a warm weather. You will not like being jostled by your own bag on a long journey. It's necessary for the ride to be comfortable to actually enjoy a road trip and you will want all of your luggage out of the way.

**Types of Cargo Boxes** The basic point of distinction when categorising roof top cargo box storages is the type of material used, whether it is hard or soft. Neither of the types is a straight winner and both have their upsides and downsides. So let's tally the odds against the evens. **Hard:** It is the traditional box type storage and is literally a box of hard plastic attached to the roof of your car. Now it is obvious that being a stable box, it will always provide greater protection to your goods and be durable. This means it will protect your luggage from the air resistance and also from flying off the roof as well as stop them from slipping off the front when brakes are pulled. A good quality cargo box will come equipped with a lock so that you can leave it on your car's roof without a worry. So you don't have to unlock and load the cargo again and again in case you have multiple stops along the way. **Soft:** This one is more like a bag with straps to tie it to the roof. These are usually made out of thin plastic materials such as vinyl and PVC which definitely not provide protection like a hard cargo box will but will probably be completely waterproof saving your items from sudden rain. Being made of lesser quality materials and providing lesser stability compared to hard cargo boxes, soft one will be priced a lot lower and more often than not, be way easier to install. Since PVC or vinyl usually weighs a lot less than the hard plastic, soft cargo boxes are much lighter in weight making them more suitable for smaller cars. As mentioned before, soft cargo boxes usually are not secured so you will have to take it with you wherever you go. Which one's a good one? Many designs of both soft and hard versions have been developed by several companies. Some of the features of a cargo box can make it stand out from the rest, while some can actually be a problem. Choosing the perfect cargo box also depends on what the intended use for it is. Depending on that, the required features that your cargo box must have will change. The size of your car also matters as you can not put a cargo box on a small car's roof just because you need the space. Here are some of the features you should look out for:

**Aerodynamics:** Having an extended appendage on your car will obviously catch more air when being driven. This drag that your car will experience will negatively affect the performance of your car. It may reduce your car's mileage from the one specified by manufacturer as it changes the car's original aerodynamics which were present during the company's testing. Therefore, it is very important for the cargo box to have extremely aerodynamic and streamline shape to reduce the drag.

**Dimensions:** Usually there are two types of cargo boxes available when it comes to dimensions. Some of them are long and can hold objects like snowboards, skis or golfbags, while the shorter ones are most suited for things like camping bags and luggages. Some boxes can also be a bit wider. Keep this in mind when looking for a cargo box. Check the dimensions of the cargo box and make sure the luggage you want to put in these, actually fits.

**Volume:** Cargo boxes can have a volume of anywhere between ten cubic feet to twenty cubic feet of storage space. Just like checking the dimensions, do check that the volume is complementary to your car. The most popular volume of cargo box storage ranges between 16 to 18 cubic feet. In general, a box of 12 cubic feet or less will be enough for two person's gear, while you might want to extend to 18 for that of three and definitely to a 20 plus cubic feet volume for 5 or more people.

**Security:** Check the quality of locking systems in your hard cargo box and see if it works for you. But, even if you are going for a soft cargo box, try to find one in which you will be able to put a lock somehow. Not having a lock will definitely not send your things flying on the road, but it does hamper the safety of your things when you are not around to keep an eye on them, especially if you have a night stop planned. Some additional features that will influence your decision are:

**Dual sided opening:** Most cargo boxes in the market today, can be accessed from both sides of the car. No matter which model of cargo box you are looking at, it will probably require an already installed roof rack with crossbars on your car. The mounting hardware is usually universal. So they can be mounted to any type of crossbars whether round or square, aerodynamic or factory. A box too big for your car may hinder your hatch clearance. Make sure your hatch can open all the way. Now that I have it, How to attach it? The

mounting of most of the cargo boxes is fairly straightforward but you might not be able to lift it on your own considering the weight of the boxes. The soft ones will have a lot of straps that you can install yourself, just follow the instructions included thoroughly. Some common issues you might face, once you start using. While companies are focused on building sturdier locks, there seem to be many cases when the key snaps off jamming the lock, if a bit of force is applied accidentally. Due to wear and tear over time, the hinges are usually the first things to give way. You might find replacements for some models but not all. Overloading can stress the hinges and lock system reducing their life. After installing a cargo box, keep in mind that you have added several inches to your car's height. The most common damage cases stem from running into garage doors and low parking structures. It might take some time to get used to the different height of your car. Some recommendations: #1 Thule force cargo box: Having a weight of around 40 lbs, it has a built in high-quality locking system and a tool free mounting system making it very easy to mount and dismount the box on your car. You can find it on Amazon for about \$549.95. You can find it here. #2 Yakima skybox carbonite cargo box: This is a long type hard cargo box weighing around 50 lbs. It has a body entirely made of carbonite making it extremely durable. The aerodynamic design also contributes to making it a suitable choice. It will cost you around \$649 on Amazon. You can find it here. #3 SportRack Vista XL cargo box: This is a hard cargo box with a lot of unique features. Even though it is a large cargo box, it is extremely lightweight, weighing about 28 lbs only. It has universal mounting features and is rear opening. It also has a quick release mechanism. It costs \$393.90 on Amazon. You can find it here. #4 Roofbag soft car top carrier: This is a soft rooftop cargo box. It weighs a mere 7 lbs and is very easy to mount and unmount. It does not require any roof racks or crossbars to be installed on your car. It has waterproof protection and can be secured to the roof of your car using straps. It is a lot cheaper than the previous listings at just \$299.95 on Amazon. You can find it here. #5 Shield jacket roof top luggage bag: Another soft cargo box, with an amazing 15 cubic feet storage area. It is also light-weight and weighs 7 lbs. It has a special double wall vinyl construction with welded seams. It is priced at \$49.99 on Amazon. You can find it here.