

Rola Roof Mounted Vortex Cargo Basket

Roof baskets for your SUV are one of those items you can find tons of uses for. Toss in all your wet gear after a day of kayaking. Load up some items covered in dirt and whatever without having to get your interior dirty. Haul things that shouldn't be inside, like fuel cans, pool chemicals, etc.

After much research, I chose the Rola Cargo basket for its size and the inexpensive price.

Part #: 59504
Inside Dimensions: 48" x 37-1/2" x 4"
Extension is available to lengthen carrier by 18-3/4"
Outside Dimensions: 52" x 40-1/2" x 6"
2 piece steel construction
Universal mounting hardware fits round, square and most factory OEM baskets
Factory roof basket cross members must not be wider than 3-1/4"



I ordered mine from etrailer.com which was an easy experience. I ordered at noon on Friday, had a shipping confirmation by 2pm, and it was at my door by Tuesday. I've ordered books that took longer than that!

Assembling the basket just requires that you slide the two halves of the basket together and secure with screws. I was able to put it together by myself. Once assembled, it is a bit heavy so plan your assembly near your vehicle or have some extra hands around.

I decided to mount the basket to my Yakima cross bars because they are stronger than the factory cross bars and I can remove the entire assembly just by removing the cross bars. I wanted to see how strong this basket really was so I placed the Yakima round bars on the ground, set the basket on the bars, and stepped inside. I expected basket to flex or bend under my 165lbs, but it held solid. I walked around the edges and toward the middle & the rack was rock solid. The only place the basket began to flex was when I walked to the dead center. That's fine, I don't plan on putting 165lbs on it and if I do, it won't all be in small place.

The front has a wind fairing so it's not overly noisy on the road. Around town you don't hear it with the lower speeds, but on the highway you hear more of wind rushing over the roof. It's not annoying like the drone of a loud exhaust or the whistling of load straps. If you drive with the radio on or talk with someone you'll probably not notice it.

The basket is powder coated, but Florida's rainy season and humidity challenged that. I noticed the mounting screws and some inside corners were starting to rust so I removed the basket, repainted it with about 4 coats of black Rustoleum and it's been fine since. I also noticed some rusty water coming out of the joints where the basket comes together. I solved that by putting a small piece of electrical tape around the joints. I used electrical tape because it's black and it sticks very well. Several months & numerous rain storms later the basket has not had any other rust issues.

Once I straightened out those issues, the basket has worked great. The size is perfect for hauling large items, like folding saw horses, but it's still low enough that I can park in parking garages. As you shop for roof baskets, consider the differences in one piece baskets and baskets that require assembly, as well as height and length. For the size and price, the Rola basket is a good value.