



Your Bicycle Trailer & Cargo Carrier Buyers Guide

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Backpacks and Tote Bags



Of course you know of this option, who doesn't own a backpack or tote bag? The two most important factors to consider here are: comfort and weather-proof. Backpacks and Tote Bags are now made with waterproof zippers and weatherproof heat-sealed materials. Backpacks, like the standard, go over both shoulders and hopefully have a strap that clips across your chest to prevent the it from sliding left to right while you're pedalling. Tote bags are designed for cyclists to wear with one strap across their chest and over one shoulder, the cargo area is made to sit directly on your back while you are cycling.

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No additional weight on your bicycle's axle or back wheel• Quick to jump on and off your bike as if you had no cargo at all• No need to worry about securing/locking your cargo carrier because its coming with you	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited carrying capacity• Can be distracting while riding your bike• Weighs you down and can cause severe back pain• Strap(s) can dig into your skin and leave marks



Bicycle Racks



A rear bicycle rack is the most common type of rack for everyday commuting and touring. They provide a stable base to attach panniers and baskets, and can generally support anywhere from 20 to 80 pounds, depending on the style of rack. Most bike racks attach using a bolt and your bike's braze-on mounts. Additional hardware is usually included for bikes that don't have this type of mount. Other racks make mounting a snap by utilizing a quick release system.

Front racks offer an additional option for hauling gear, though it's important to note that these racks can decrease the bike's balance and steering stability. Ideally they should be used to carry lighter and smaller items.

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convenient, always there when you need it• No need to buy a new bike, use your own• No need to worry about it when not in use• Not easily removable for thieves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racks themselves can be quite heavy• Heavy cargo on a rack puts excess weight on your bicycle's tire(s) causing them to wear faster• Usually not removable, once the rack is on your bike, more than likely you will not be removing it• May need more investment than just purchasing the rack (i.e.: other accessories/ components, bike shop to attach to bike, etc.)



Bicycle Panniers



Whether you're pedaling cross-country or down the street to work, you'll need a bag (or four) to transport your cargo. Panniers come in a variety of shapes and sizes and easily attach to bicycle-mounted racks. Before you purchase a pannier bag, make sure it is compatible with your bike rack(s).

Things to consider:

- Weatherproof or water resistant? There is a difference, weatherproof is just that, water and weather PROOF (wet, snowy, rocky, dirty conditions). Water resistant, on the other hand, does not protect your cargo from heavy rain, snow, salt damage, etc.
- Size: How much cargo carrying space do you need?
- Durability: What are you using your panniers for? Touring? Commuting? Materials and strength of each matter when selecting what is right for your needs.
- Weight: Would you prefer a more durable pannier at a heavier weight?
- Mounting: Some panniers simply cross over the top of your rack and stay fairly sturdy, others clip to the rack for more security
- Handlebars: Do you need them? They can make carrying panniers a lot easier

Popular Brands:

- Ortlieb
- Arkel
- Carradice (UK)



Bicycle Panniers



PROS

- Takes the strain of carrying cargo off your body
- Removable for easy packing, ride with or without
- Weatherproof materials available
- No need to buy a new bike, use your own
- Not always securable to prevent theft

CONS

- Need to purchase and attach bike rack to use panniers
- Weighs down your bicycle at the back tire causing more wear and possible damage when riding through potholes and over bumpy roads
- No flatbed for large heavy cargo
- Heavy cargo on one side can make for an uncomfortable bike ride
- After parking, carrying fully loaded panniers can be challenging
- Add to wind resistance
- If weight is distributed high, they affect sturdiness
- If bags are too low, they can scrape on curbs, tussocks or boulders as you ride



Bicycle Baskets



Baskets will mount to the front or rear of a bicycle. Rear baskets tend to be deeper to accommodate larger items like groceries and unlike most panniers, they have no lid, allowing you to tote taller items. Rear baskets mount to rear racks and typically hang on either side of the wheel.

Front baskets, on the other hand, tend to be smaller, wider and shallower and mount to either the handlebar or front fork. When shopping for a basket, look for ones that you can quickly detach and take with you, preferably with handles or shoulder straps.

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easy!• Some are detachable so you can bring them with you• Keeps precious cargo right in front of you• Compact and trendy looking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small cargo space• Not enough weight capacity• Not secured from theft



Bicycle Trailers



Bicycle trailers are most commonly used for transporting kids, pets, or cargo for commuters and touring cyclists. Bicycle trailers carry anywhere from 50-100 lbs. Handling of the trailer and how much weight it can carry depends on whether it is a single or two wheel trailer, and whether it attaches to the axle or the seat post.

See pages 10 - 15 for more on bicycle trailers.



PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry more with a bicycle trailer • Flatbed for larger cargo • No excess weight on bicycle's wheels • Many designs can be used in combination with a bike rack and/or panniers • Remove it if you don't need it • You can now live car free! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling needs some getting used to • Always have to mind the extra length to your bicycle • The heavier the cargo, the more difficult the ride • Some trailers can be bulky and difficult to park • Trailer must be considered when locking your bicycle



Cargo Bikes



Cargo bicycles are like bikes with non-removable trailers, but usually at the front of the bike. Cargo bikes are fairly new to the bicycle industry but seem to be coming more popular every year. Often described as the world's most useful bikes, cargo bikes have become a hip earth-friendly vehicle for dropping kids off at school as well as an affordable way to transport large items. Before you shop for one of these heavy haulers, think about the size and weight of what you'll be toting. Then find the bike that fits your lifestyle.

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ride it like a regular bike• Always have somewhere to put your stuff• Always have your cargo in front of you• Safe for your kids/pets to ride along with you• Heavy cargo capabilities• Durable frame and bicycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bicycle is larger than standard• Riding with heavy cargo may take some getting used to• Parking in high traffic/urban areas may be tricky• Bicycle itself can be heavy, even without cargo• Need storage room for another, larger bike

Cargo Carrier Comparison Chart

Below is a comparison chart of all cargo carrying options named above and the Maya Cycle bicycle trailer. Maya Cycle has been chosen to represent the best bike trailer option for all cycling styles.

COMPARISON	BACKPACK/ TOTE BAG	BIKE RACK	BICYCLE PANNIERS	BASKET	CARGO BIKE	MAYA CYCLE BICYCLE TRIALER
Urban Commuter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Touring Cyclist	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Safe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Removable	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Heavy	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Wears Bicycle's Tires	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Securable from Theft	Yes	Brand dependent	Brand dependent	Brand dependent	Yes	Yes
Easy to Park in Busy Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Easy to Manoeuver	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Flatbed for Large Cargo	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

3 Things You Need to Know When Choosing a Bicycle Cargo Trailer

When it comes to the functionality of a bicycle trailer, there are differences that are considered when answering the question: what will I be using my bicycle trailer for?

There are 3 things to consider when choosing a bicycle trailer for your specific style of riding:

- 1. Is the bicycle trailer single or two-wheel?**
- 2. Does the trailer mount to the axle or the seat post?**
- 3. What is the carrying capacity?**

Bicycle trailer functionality differs by whether it is a single or two-wheeler, and how or where it is mounted to ones bicycle (axle or seat post). These two specifications will affect the cyclist's ride, how much weight can be carried, where the bike trailer can be used (i.e.: paved roads, trails, city streets), whether it follows directly behind the bicycle and/or whether there is a possibility of it tipping over.

Axle-mounted single wheel trailers are designed to follow directly behind a bicycle's back wheel, cutting a narrower profile through traffic and are as functional off road as they are jumping in and out of potholes. Two wheel trailers differ in mobility and size. They do not follow directly in-line with a bicycle's wheels, are much wider on the road and usually have a heavier carrying capacity.

3 Things You Need to Know When Choosing a Bicycle Cargo Trailer

	ATTACHES VIA	PROS	CONS
Single-Wheel	Attaches from left and right side of axle	Follows directly behind bicycle wheels at all times	Heavy cargo is being balanced on one wheel and may affect cyclist
Single-Wheel Seat Post	Single bar attaching trailer to seat post	Less stress on axle or bike, quick and easy attachment	Does not follow directly behind bike wheels, does not have flat bed for cargo
Two-Wheel Axle Mounted	Attaches to left side of axle only	Allows you to place your bike down without affecting trailer and cargo, carries heavy loads	Wide and bulky, does not follow directly behind bicycle wheels (cautious wide turns needed)
Two-Wheel Seat Post Mounting	Single bar attaching trailer to seat post	Carries heavy loads, less stress on rear axle, seat post attachment can be used as handlebar	May tip on sharp turn or if you hit a pothole/speed bump in the road

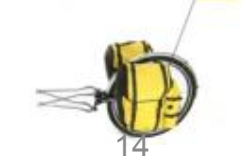
Bicycle Trailer Comparison Chart

In today's world of cycling, there are many bicycle trailer options for you to choose from. Whether you're concerned about functionality, durability, weight carrying capacity or price, below you will find a comparison chart of most bicycle trailers available in North America. Please note that prices vary by retailer/supplier.



Single Wheel Trailer Comparison Chart

Trailer Name	Wheel Size	Trailer Weight	Carrying Capacity	Attaches Via	Price USD	Features and Benefits
Maya Cycle	16"	13 lbs / 5.9 kg	70 lbs / 32 kg	Rear Axle (L+R side)	\$249	Kickstand, Handlebars, compact, weight, price, free bag
Bob Yak	16"	13.5 lbs / 6.1 kg	70 lbs / 32 kg	Rear Axle (L+R side)	\$329	20 year reputation, weight
Bob Ibex	16"	17 lbs / 7.7 kg	70 lbs / 32 kg	Rear Axle (L+R side)	\$439	Shock spring, branded reputation
Web Monoporter	20"	12.5 lbs / 5.7 kg	55 lbs / 25 kg	Rear Axle (L+R side)	\$399	Suspension, folds flat
Nashbar	16"	23 lbs / 10.45 kg	45 lbs / 20.45 kg	Rear Axle (L+R side)	\$119	Low price
Topeak	16"	10.6 lbs / 4.85 kg	70 lbs / 32 kg	Rear Axle (L+R side)	\$499	Durable, convenient attachment,
Extra Wheel		8.6 lbs / 3.9 kg	66 lbs / 30 kg	Rear Axle (L+R side)	\$259	Light, compact



Two Wheel Trailer Comparison Chart

Trailer Name	Wheel Size	Trailer Weight	Carrying Capacity	Attaches Via	Price USD	Features and Benefits
Burley Travoy Cargo Trailer	12.5	9.8 lbs / 4.49 kg	60 lbs / 27.3 kg	Seat Post	\$289	Converts into hand pulled shopping basket, convenient attachment
Carry Freedom City Bicycle Trailer	12"	11 lbs / 5 kg	88 lbs / 40 kg	Rear Axle (L side)	\$430	Foldable, compact, light, heavy weight capacity
Burley Nomad	16"	14.8 lbs / 6.7 kg	100 lbs / 45 kg	Rear Axle (L+R side)	\$349	100 lb capacity, durable, sturdy, well branded
Burley Flatbed	16"	14.3 lbs / 6.5 kg	100 lbs / 45 kg	Rear Axle (L side)	\$249	100 lb capacity, durable, sturdy, well branded
Croozr Cargo Trailer	16-22"	25 lbs / 11.4 kg	66 lbs / 30 kg	Rear Axle (L side)	\$199	Price, size
Cycle Tote	26"	16.5 lbs / 7.5 kg	100 lbs / 45.5 kg	Seat Post	\$399-1099	Large wheels, quality, made in USA
Bikes at Work	16"	27 – 43 lbs / 12-19.5 kg	300 lbs / 136 kg	Rear Axle (L side)	\$450 - \$570	Heavy load capacity, adjustable length
Radical Design Cyclone 3 Cargo Trailer	16"	27.5 lbs / 5.7 kg	88 lbs / 40 kg	Rear Axle (L side)	\$549	Large load capacity, light, durable, hitch
Quick-Pak Optima	16-20"	16.5 lbs / 7.5 kg	75 lbs / 34 kg	Rear Axle (L side)	\$349	Easy, sturdy, off bike handling, made in USA



Commuter / Urban Trailer Options

Specifications	Maya Cycle	Bob Yak	Burley Travoy	Carry Freedom
Frame Material	ASTM 513 Steel Welded Tube	4130 Chromoly Steel	Plastic and Aluminum	Anodized 6064T6 Aluminum
Actual Weight	13 lbs / 5.9 kg	13.5 lbs / 6.1 kg	9.8 lbs / 4.4 kg	11 lbs / 5 kg
Length	19"	25"	21"	49"
Width	15"	16"	18"	25.6"
Height	12.5"	18"	8"	13.7"
Single or Two Wheel	Single	Single	Two Wheel	Two Wheel
Wheels/Rims	16" Aluminum Rim	16" Aluminum Rim	12" black push-button wheels	12" x 2.25 Schwalbe Cityjet
Quick-Release Wheel (Y/N)	No	No	No	No
Load Capacity	66 lbs / 30 kg	70 lbs / 32 kg	60 lbs / 27 kg	45 lbs / 20.45 kg
Axle Support System	Quick Release / Solid Axle	Quick Release / Solid Axle	No - Seat Post Attachment	Rear Axle - Left Side
Folds (Y/N)	No	No	Yes	Yes
Bag Included	Yes	No	No	No
Price	\$249 USD	\$289 - \$390 USD	\$289 USD	\$562 USD
Features	Kickstand, Wheelbarrow	Standard	Foldable, Handlebar for easy pulling	Foldable, Handle bar for easy pulling
Map Pockets on Bag	Yes	No	No	No
Affects Bike Handling	Yes	Yes	No	No
Easy for City Commuting	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Durable Enough for Touring	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Follows In-Line with Bicycle Wheels	Yes	Yes	No	No
Pros	Kickstand / Wheelbarrow mode, compact, follows in-line with bicycle wheels	Single wheel follows in-line with wheel, Brand is well know and trusted in bicycle industry	Different style bags for different style cargo, trailer is light, easy to attach/detach	Small and Compact, foldable