

# SK101 : Transporting & Storing your Kayak



# How to start !



# Let's discuss :

- 1. Best ways to transport your kayak
- 2. Handling & loading tips
- 3. Storage solutions

# Let's start with Roof Rack Basics

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- **Towers & Feet** – specialized clips
- **Cradles / Rollers / J Bars**

# A low cost solution?

- Foam blocks on the roof
- Strap kayak on top of the blocks & through the open doors...

\*Not though the windows!

# Lowest cost is **NOT** really great solution

- Grit & sand damages finish of car roof
- Extra weight directly on the roof
- Difficult to keep secure

Another solution- foam blocks fitted on crossbars



## BEST : fitted kayak RACK – with component parts:

- +4 FEET
- +4 TOWERS
- +2 CROSS BARS
- +2 cradles per kayak
- Or 2 J bars
- =\$450 - \$600+

## Two popular rack manufacturers

- Yakima
- [WWW.YAKIMA.COM](http://WWW.YAKIMA.COM)
- Round steel cross bars
- Thule
- [WWW.THULE.COM](http://WWW.THULE.COM)
- Square steel cross bars

Both have many accessories fitting most vehicles

There are a number of other manufacturers that you can find on-line

# Yakima OR Thule

Use specialized style roof rack supports  
& share cradle styles.

Square & oval cross bars prevent the  
cradles from rotating

\*for a round bar - an option : screw in  
place.

Most manufacturers use **Fit Guides** to customize the rack parts to fit your vehicle

- Found online & at local outfitters
- Lists specific parts to fit your vehicle – make, model & year

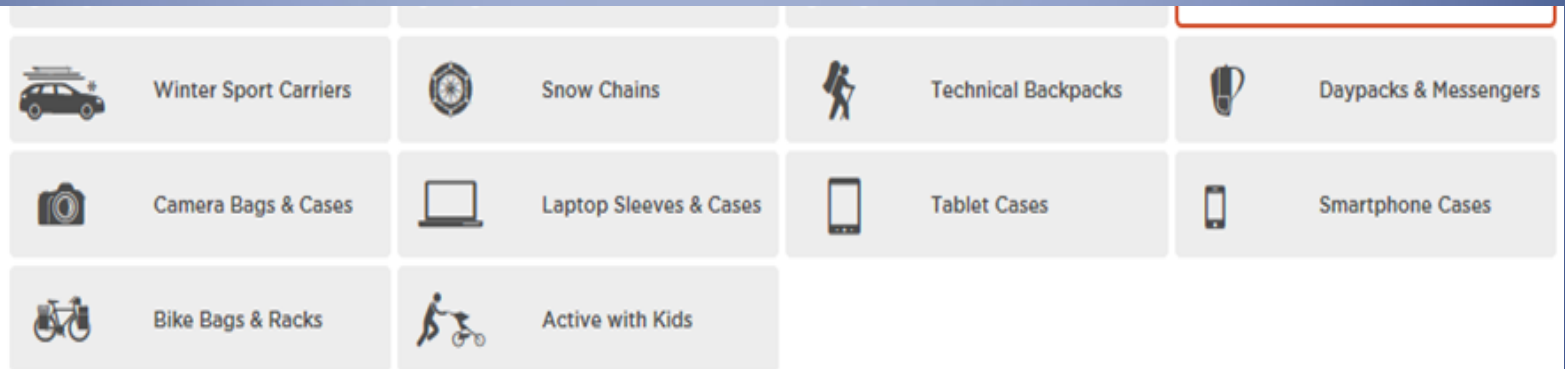
# Use the existing factory roof rails & crossbars:

- Easy to install cradles
- Cheaper

\*DO check the load capacity of the  
rails & crossbars on your car.

Can be less than 95 lb!

# Lots of choices on line



## Water sport gear •



## Carrier mounting



## Assist



## Recommended products



### Thule Glide and Set 883

Premium saddle combination guides and sets the kayak for smooth loading, unloading and transportation

[View details](#)

\$219.95

1

[Add to cart](#)



### Thule Slipstream 887XT

\$349.95

Installed cradles on vehicle roof rails. Added PVC tube holds a Greenland Paddle.



Or install directly to roof



# Then choose a Horizontal cradle style :



- Padded saddles help kayak slide
- Easy to adjust width to fit all sizes

With several front cradle options



# and rear options ...

Rollers-(Hully Rollers®)

Easy rear loading



Fixed cradles

Same as front



# Or VERTICAL options:

- padded “J” bars
- Kayak held on its side
- Fits a narrow roof
- Can be awkward for loading on tall vehicles
- ... height- challenging
- Cost \$50-90 /Pair



# Standard cradle/saddle kit usually contains:

**1 pair of saddles/cradles**

1 tie-down rope & pulley

- 1 long strap w/locking buckle
- Cost: \$75-80 EACH

Or select :Thule Hullavator.®

- Provides a specialized hydraulic LIFT ASSIST to handle the weight
- Lowers over side- to waist height
- Reduces back and height issues
- Cost \$575-650 plus basic rack

Here it is in the UP position...



# Easy to release...



# OR tow a trailer

- Light weight + need cradles
- Basic cost \$2,000 + tags, tow hitch, etc.

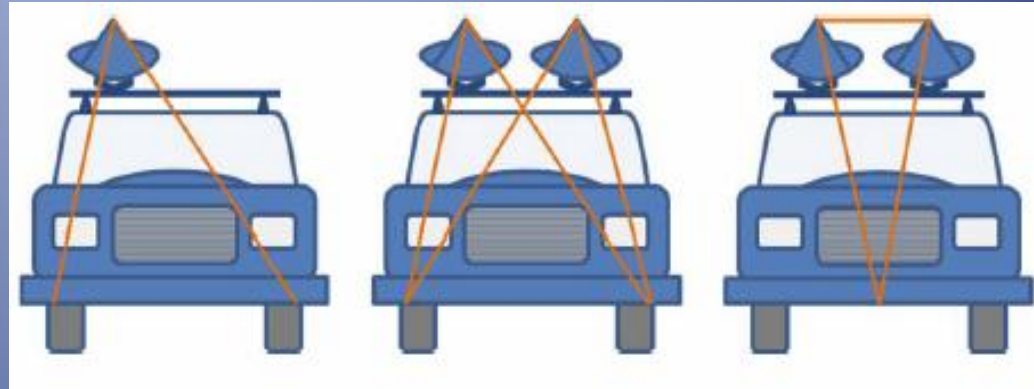


# Handy helping tips

- Short step ladder or stool
- a wheel- step stool
- a rubber backed bath mat
- pull out cross bar or rear bar

# Remember to use both Front & Rear Tie Downs

- Hook to vehicle's steel undercarriage, bumper, or towing eye bolts.

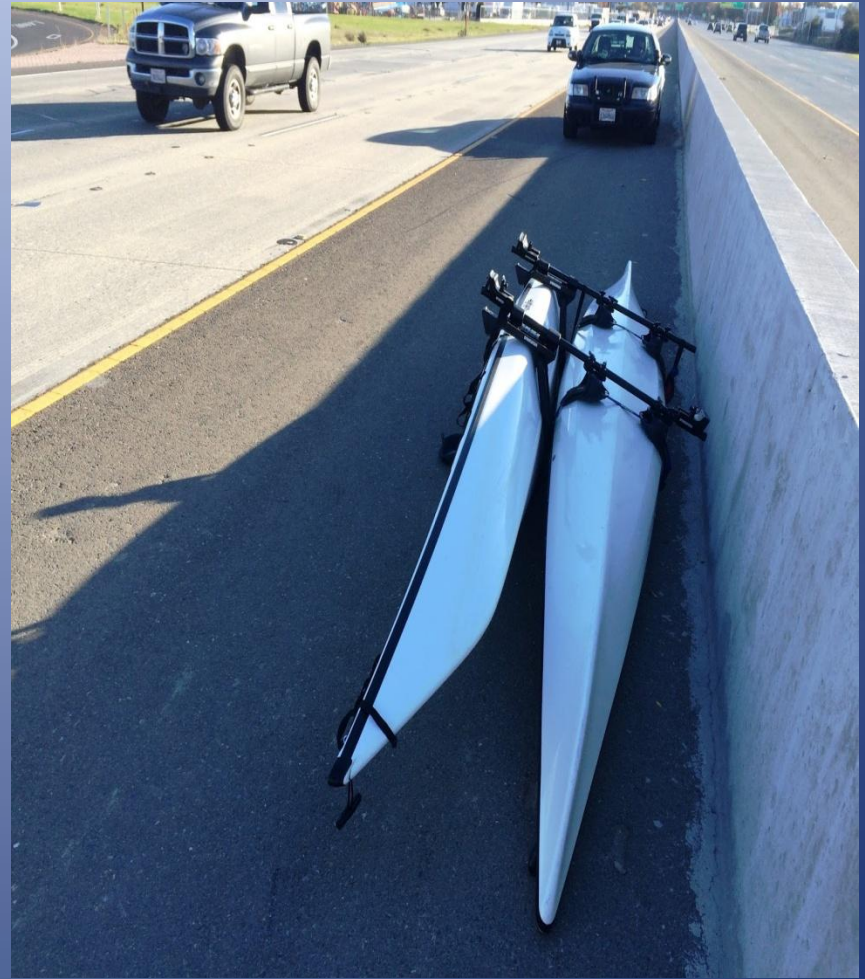


Avoid exhaust system &  
plastic parts!

# For Under hood tie downs-

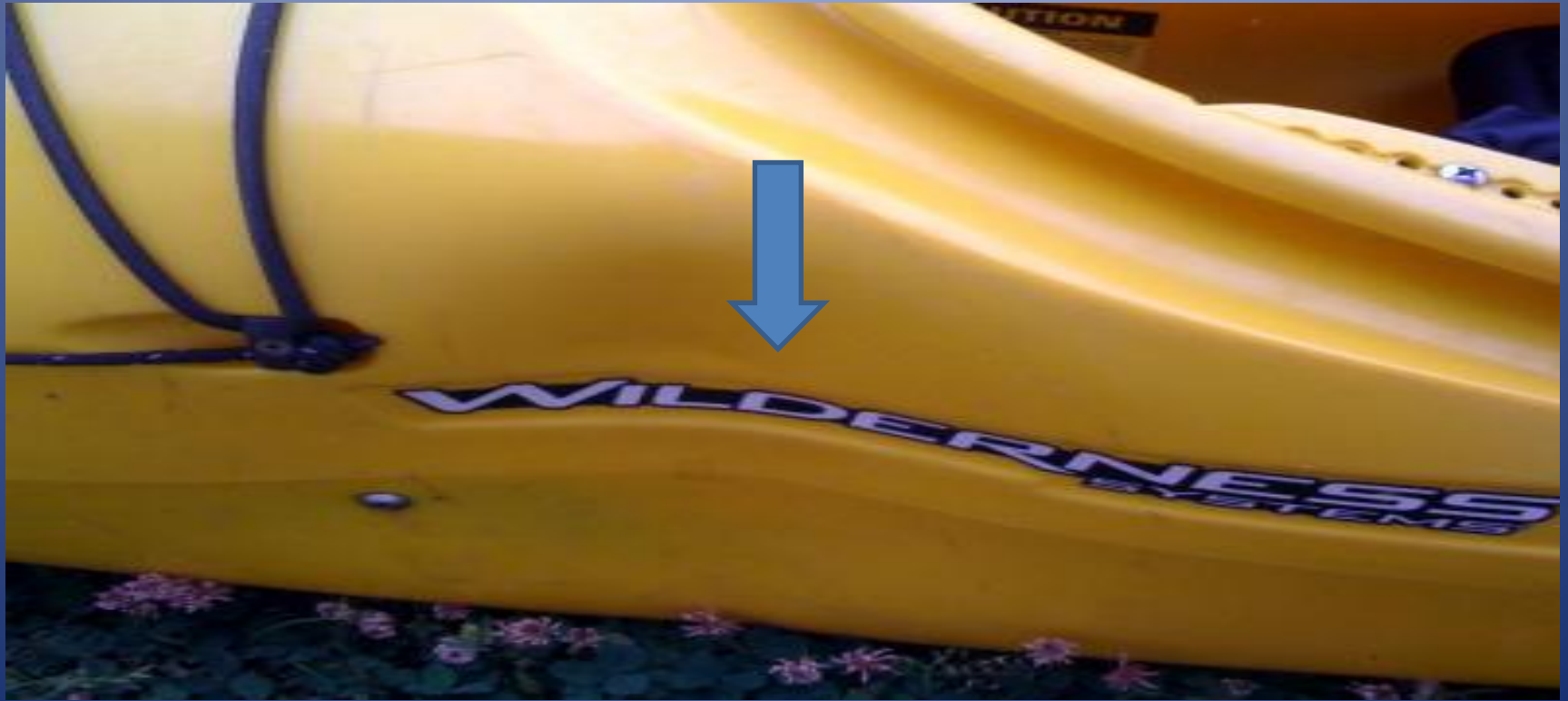
- Easy to use
- Bought or home made
- Attach to existing bolts or secured by hood/trunk





DON' T let this happen  
to you !

- Always attach tie-downs securely – the pull from a caught strap can distort or break any kayak



Kayak horror story –no bow tie down  
& a lost front strap =kayak totaled &  
entire rack torn off



Another loose front tie-down  
caught around a front tire = kayak  
bent in half & total loss....



# So...please Strap it !

- Use straps w/self-locking buckles- snug not too tight.
- Check straps & tie-downs that loosen due to wind action & wet weather.

Kayak rack warranties **require both** front and rear tie-downs be used plus straps

## 2. Handling & carrying

- Please use care & common sense !
- Kayaks can cause serious injury ...



Trying to protect their vehicle roof .....

**Do not go crazy!**

# Lifting & loading

- Please do ask your paddling buddies for a helping hand....
- Why?

# Kayak stats:

- Weight = 30-70+ lbs
- Length = 14-19+ feet
- Wind can make loading difficult.
- Lifting incorrectly or trying to catch a falling boat can cause serious injury.
- More importantly, you might break the boat!

# Two people easy loading

- Each lift an end
- Lift overhead together ....like this





# Carrying a kayak solo – needs practice!

- Hold the kayak cockpit & swivel to your shoulder.
- Use a knee up to help lift.
- Rest on your shoulder inside cockpit.



Would you try this ?

LOOKS easy ? I wouldn't try it

# An easy way to load solo

Use a rug or pad on the vehicle hood or rear roof edge – kayak slides easily and reduces roof scratches

# First- set the kayak behind the vehicle...



# Lift by cockpit or by the bow



# Place on roof



# Hold steady - walk to stern



# Lift stern



# UP to shoulder level



# Push onto cradle



Please use manufacturer's  
straps & buckles – snug  
but not too tight!

- Do not use rope, trucker's rubber tie-downs, or elastic bungees

Please keep in mind your  
new height = 7+ feet !

- Watch for low-overhead  
parking garages, your  
garage door, signs, & trees

...And its extra length!

- NEW 2-6+ foot overhang
- Watch for obstacles when backing, parking, and turning.

# For safety!

- Please use a red or orange warning flag on your kayak's stern
- May be required by law depending on jurisdiction

After this class - come watch  
us load & check out different  
rack systems ...

Next...



# 3. Kayak Storage solutions

- FIRST : what works for your own storage space....inside or outside?

# Go inside ...

- Install metal J hangers



Go Easy : padded sawhorses  
or  
Flat on the floor for plastic kayaks....



# Build a Wood rack...

Under the deck



Garage rack on wheels



# Another example





## Go Outside...

Use a kayak cover and  
store on sawhorses or  
camp chairs

Install outside hangers...



Or build an roofed rack or shed



# Improvise ....

Two aluminum walkers



Two camp stools - McLean  
Be Fit display by CPA



# Or build your own A-frame Rack



Use a BIGGER boat...



Use a ceiling pulley system ...



buy a Ready to Go Rack on wheels...  
There are lots of solutions !



## Tips when storing outside:

- Use a cover or kayak bag (be sure kayak is dry, inside and out)
- Off the ground to keep out varmints, bird nests, spiders, & bees
- Upside down to keep out rain water
- Protect from UV damage

# In closing...

- Pick the best rack system for you & your vehicle
- Use care loading & strapping your kayak
- Find creative & convenient storage

# Got questions ?

