

HOW WE TESTED

FILL IT, POKE IT, SOAK IT

The perfect stowage bag would have the following five attributes: (1) puncture resistant, (2) watertight, (3) inexpensive, (4) easy to fill, and (5) allow air to be compressed out of the contents and be able to hold this vacuum until the seal is opened.

To test puncture resistance, we took the point of a paperclip and pressed it against full bags and judged how hard it was to push through the material (see top photo at right). To test watertightness, we submerged full bags in fresh water for five minutes, then opened them and inspected the contents for signs of leakage (see bottom photo at right). For the two bag designs that allowed compression, testers inserted a standard pillow, followed the instructions for compression, and measured the space reduction. There are always special deals being run on these bags, but we list the lowest regular price we could find (see chart below).



PS VALUE GUIDE STORAGE BAGS

PRODUCT	PUNCTURE RESISTANCE	WATERTIGHTNESS	COMPRESSION	EASE OF LOADING	PRICE	PRICE SOURCE
CUBE	MEDIUM	POOR (ONLY WATER RESISTANT)	POOR (NONE)	EXCELLENT	\$5	WAL-MART
DRY BAG 🏆	HIGH	EXCELLENT	POOR (NONE)	POOR	\$24	SEALLINEGEAR.COM
SPACE BAG* ★	LOW	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT (67%)	EXCELLENT	7 FOR \$20	SPACEBAG.COM
PACK MATE	LOW	EXCELLENT	GOOD (55%)	GOOD	7 FOR \$20	QVC.COM

★ Best Choice 🏆 Recommended *E-Z load model