

# StowAway2 Cargo Carriers

## *Hitch Extender Guide*

Hitch Extenders can provide additional clearance for your StowAway2 Cargo Carrier or Rack. However, there are a number of safety issues to consider prior to using a Hitch Extender.

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For information about accommodating rear-mounted spare tires and ladders, please refer to our **Spare Tire Clearance Guide**. To check if your vehicle has a known fit issue, please reference our **Online Fit Guide**.

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### 1) What is a Hitch Extender?

A Hitch Extender is an automotive accessory that inserts into a trailer hitch. Generally, an extender is 2" wide by 2" tall, with a variable length (6" to 12"). The purpose of a hitch extender is to increase the clearance for a hitch-mounted accessory, as it will set the accessory (a bike rack or cargo carrier, for example) further back away from the vehicle.



### 2) When to use a Hitch Extender

It may be necessary to use a Hitch Extender with your StowAway2 Cargo Carrier or Rack if:

- Your vehicle has a large rear-mounted spare tire
- Your vehicle has a large rear-mounted ladder
- Your vehicle has a camper shell that overhangs your bumper
- If your aftermarket trailer hitch is set well underneath your bumper

If your vehicle faces one of the above situations, please read out the **Spare Tire Clearance Guide**. This guide will help you determine if a Hitch Extender will be necessary to properly use a StowAway2 Cargo Carrier on your vehicle.

### 2) Hitch Extender Safety Information

Due to the weight of a StowAway2 Cargo Carrier or Rack, we only recommend using a Hitch Extender on a Class 3 or above (2") hitch. We do not recommend using a hitch extender on a 1.25" trailer hitch. We do not recommend using a Hitch Extender longer than 7 inches (measure from hitch pin hole to hitch pin hole on the Extender). We do not recommend using a Hitch Expander (a specialty extender that converts a vehicle's 1.25" hitch to a 2" opening).

The use of a Hitch Extender in conjunction with a StowAway2 Cargo Carrier will decrease the carrying capacity of the StowAway2 by 1/3. Therefore, you should attempt to limit the weight of your gear to roughly 130 pounds when you use your StowAway2 with an Extender.

#### **4) Recommended Hitch Extender Setup**

In the picture below, you will see an ideal Hitch Extender setup when used with a StowAway2 Cargo Carrier.



Please note the following:

1. We recommend using a Locking Hitch Pin to secure the Hitch Extender into the hitch. We recommend using a second Locking Hitch Pin to secure the carrier's frame into the Extender. Locking both hitch pin holes is the surest way to prevent theft.
2. We recommend using a Hitch-Coupling Tightener to secure the junction between the Hitch Extender and the hitch. We recommend using a second Hitch-Coupling Tightener to secure the junction between the carrier's frame and the Hitch Extender. Using two Hitch-Coupling Tighteners is the surest way to eliminate any wobble or sway that might occur when using a StowAway2 Cargo Carrier in conjunction with a hitch extender.