

## Dry Bags for a Private Rafting Trip

I recommend that each person have about 80 liters of capacity. As I wrote in my gear list, I usually break this up into three bags per two people. My personal gear goes into a 30 or 40-liter bag. My tentmate and I share another 40 or 50-liter bag for our tent, sleeping pads, sleeping bags, etc. Most people who are not used to packing for rafting trips will probably pack a bit heavy, so each pair of people would have 3 bags: two 40-liter bags and one 50-liter bag.

There are, of course, other options. Outfitter sized bags are available that are much larger than the typical bag. I do not prefer these because I generally feel that it is easier to pack two smaller bags than one larger one (both in terms of packing the bags with stuff and in packing the bags on the boats). But they are perfectly acceptable - just take my recommendation about the total volume of your gear to heart and let's not have everybody trying to fill on of these monsters!

When selecting a dry bag, there are many features you can consider other than size. The first is the material (most are just fine - don't go really cheap). The second is carrying straps (don't need any unless you are planning on carrying it lots or it is very heavy). The third is features like see-through material (can be good to see what's inside without opening it) and reinforced bottom (can be good in case you set it down on a stick). There are also some new bags that have a duffel design which can be easier to get into and fish around in. Generally, unless you plan on using it into the future I'd go with one without any extra features.

Also, each person should plan on having a small (around 5-liter) dry bag that will be accessible during the day (though you don't necessarily have to have one, it sure is nice). These are not available for rent. Our outfitter in Flagstaff sells these if you want to hold off on buying one until we get there. Expect them to run between \$10 and \$15 each.

I did a little research on the web and came up with a list of what's available (below). I did this research in about a half-hour though, so don't consider it to be too terribly complete. It is just to give you an idea and a basis for comparison. Also, I recall from REI's summer catalog that SealLine bags are on sale through their outlet ([rei-outlet.com](http://rei-outlet.com)).

Prior to purchasing, however, you should consider the fact that we will be able to rent these in ample amounts. The prices for rentals are 50 cents per day for a 107-liter bag. This would be about half the price of purchasing a smaller one.

And lastly, I am putting together an order from NRS that I will be placing within the week. I get the outfitter's discount if anyone wants me to order anything for them - dry bags or otherwise. Their catalog is on-line at [nrsweb.com](http://nrsweb.com). If I do order something for you, don't plan on having it until you see me.

