

MORE STORAGE PLEASE!

Fitting storage drawers to our new dual cab ute

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RV TOURING SOLUTIONS

These days, modern caravans and motorhomes are pretty cleverly designed with the end user in mind. A great manufacturer will take advantage of every available space to create a cupboard, draw or shelf. In such a small space – every inch counts! The common issue for storage space for travellers sits with their vehicle.

Wagon style 4x4s (like your Patrol, Landcruiser, etc) have large cargo areas that can accommodate a fair bit of gear. In my opinion however, the real winner for storage space are the dual cab and single cab ute varieties (Ranger, Navara, Colorado, etc). Their large tubs or style-side trays allow huge amounts of gear to be carried – team one up with a good waterproof canopy and you will be the envy of many fellow campers who could only dream of having so much storage space. (I think it's actually called 'Storage Envy').

When considering storage solutions for your vehicle, take a moment to think about the kind of items you need to find homes for. Items that you may need to access often (like your tools, camping gear and torches), how vulnerable are your items to breakage and damage? You need to be able to safely store items whilst you travel! Security is another big issue – being able to lock your gear up is crucial. This is where a quality storage drawer system solves the problem for many travellers.

A good quality storage drawer system will maximise the space at the bottom of your cargo area whilst being robust enough to allow bulky items to be stacked and secured on top. Things like your camping gear and fridges. The drawers can then be used to sort and organise your smaller items, keeping them safe and accessible. A feature of a well thought out

drawer system is they will utilise the side wings (the space either side of the drawer). These will often hide the wheel arches allowing a full flat surface to carry gear. The side wings make great areas for things like spare vehicle parts, recovery gear, and even auxiliary batteries.

We recently upgraded our touring vehicle to a new Holden Colorado Ute. Our number one accessory on the list was a fibreglass canopy. This gave us double the storage area, kept our gear dry and we were able to lock it up. Our second job was to source and install a good-quality drawer system that would suit our new vehicle.

We were able to find a company that specialises in making draw systems to suit a range of vehicles including ours. RV Storage Solutions are based in Victoria and were previously known as Black Widow Storage Drawers. They





Four mounting bolts hold our drawer system in place



Fitting the side wing brackets



Clear instructions take the guess work out of drilling holes for mounting



manufacture their drawers using computer cut fabrication techniques, use solid hardware components, tough bearings, and with plenty of experience they were able to offer a well thought out design and finish to their systems.

The great thing about storage drawers are that any decent manufacturer can offer an array of options when it comes to their systems. Some systems have built in fridge slides, some have double stacked drawers and even triple drawers. This is handy because we all travel with different gear and our needs are all unique. Some manufacturers may even offer a custom-made option where you can discuss your personal needs to get the system that's right for you – the design is limited by your imagination. The key however, is to look for quality. Yes, you may pay a little more but you need to know your system will last

a long time and not fall apart after your first trip away.

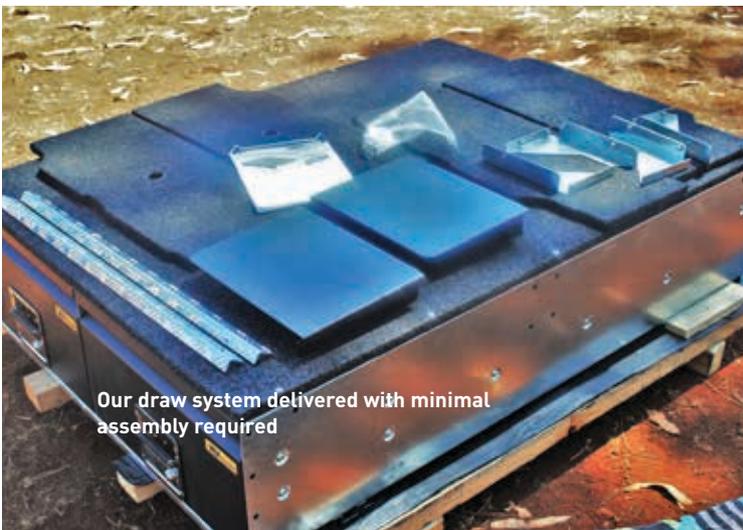
Don't be too scared to install them yourself, a good-quality drawer system should be made to fit snug and would come with all required hardware (check this before buying). Our system from RV Storage Solutions was complete with all screws, mounting bolts and best of all the customised instructions took the guess work out, right down to where to drill. Installation took less than a few hours and basically the custom fit ensured that there was no room for error.

We have now created storage space that is lockable, practical, accessible, and just simply - USEFUL!

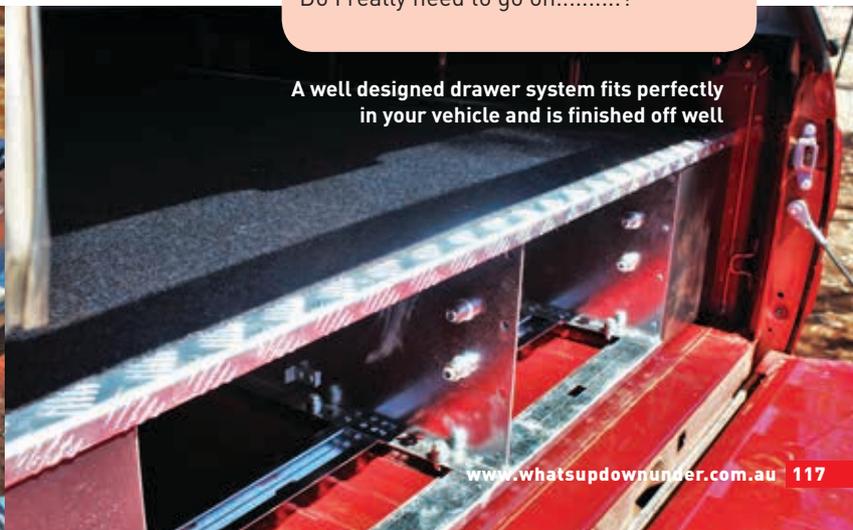
BENEFITS OF A QUALITY MADE STORAGE DRAWER SYSTEM:

- Practical space created from an otherwise awkward space
- Provides secure, lockable storage space for valuable items
- Provides a convenient way to organise smaller, more frequently accessed items
- Provides a secure mounting platform for fridge slides and dual battery trays
- Adds value to your vehicle
- Customisable to suit individual preference

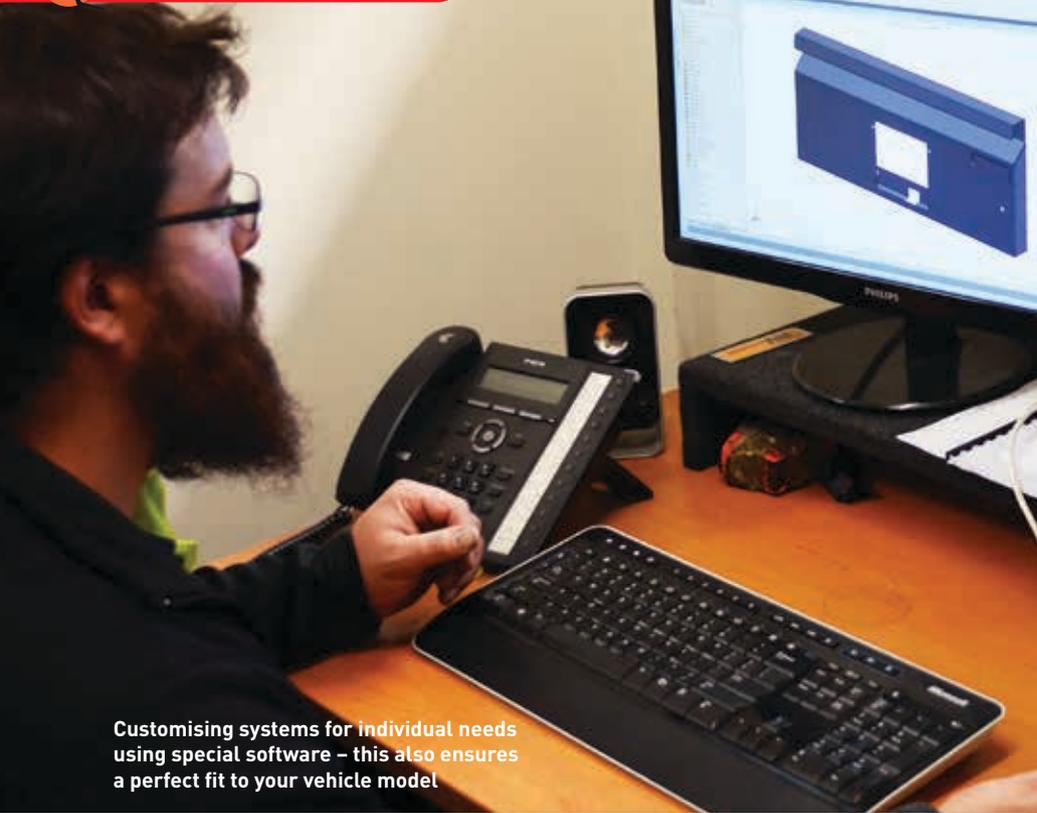
Do I really need to go on.....?!



Our draw system delivered with minimal assembly required



A well designed drawer system fits perfectly in your vehicle and is finished off well



Customising systems for individual needs using special software – this also ensures a perfect fit to your vehicle model

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR BEFORE PURCHASING?

- Spend some time thinking about a drawer configuration that will suit your setup
- Research manufacturers and read reviews – choose a manufacturer that is well known in the industry and has a trusted reputation.
- Buy quality – look for high grade steel, heavy duty bearings and solid runners/slides that don't rattle
- Ensure the system has a lockable handle/latch that closes firmly.
- Look for heavy duty marine grade carpet as the choice of covering for the top
- Choose a unit that is made for your particular model vehicle (not a generic unit)
- Ask if it comes ready to install or if further cutting/assembly is required



Choose a drawer system that is made from quality materials and is manufactured to last

For some ideas on just how flexible the storage configurations can be, whether it's for your 4x4, camper, caravan or motorhome – check out

www.rvtradeandfleet.com.au or give them a call 03 5428 4426 or even email info@rvtradeandfleet.com.au.

These guys are a great place to start looking at options and in my opinion set the benchmark on standards for drawer systems.