

4 Features to Look for In a Bike Commuter Bag

Biking to work with a [backpack](#) is a great way to save money on gas, be kind to Mother Nature, and burn a few extra calories on the way. Considering bicycling's many benefits, it's no surprise that the number of [bike commuters in the U.S. increased by 57%](#) between 2000 and 2009.

If you are planning on joining the growing ranks of bike commuters in your city, then you'll need to invest in the right commuter bag. When choosing a bag for bicycling to work, here are four features to look for:

1. Cross Body or Backpack Style

Consider bags that can be worn either messenger style, across the chest, or as a backpack. For added comfort, find a bag with padded straps. This type of bag will keep your hands free so that you can bike safely. A bag that swings to the side or hangs too low can get caught in your bike tires or throw you off balance.

2. Dedicated Laptop Holder

You don't want your computer to be rattling around in your bag as you ride, so shop for a bag with a padded and secure laptop holder. A secure computer compartment can protect your laptop in the unlikely event of a fall. Measure your laptop at home first to find a bag that fits your machine's size.

3. Reflective Strips

If it's rainy or dark in the mornings and evenings while you commute, then you can benefit from a bag that has built in reflective strips. In addition to bike reflectors or an LED light, reflective material on your bag will keep you safer by making you more visible to drivers. [Manhattan Portage](#) offers several classic bike messenger style bags with built-in safety reflective strips.

4. Bike Friendly Details

Make [bicycle commuting](#) easy with a backpack or computer bag that has bike-friendly features. Many styles will offer a key leash or carabiner, phone pocket, mesh lined inner pockets and convenient external pouches. Also consider purchasing a bag with a quick and easy closure in case you have to stop and answer your phone on the way to the office!

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