



Osprey Raven 10 Review

An in-depth look at the women's-specific Osprey Raven hydration pack

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Review

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My full-suspension mountain bike frame is too small to fit a water bottle cage. So, every time I ride, I strap a hydration pack to my back. What this means is over time, I've amassed an unusually large collection. And, for whatever reason, I've found that most of the packs I own fall into one of two categories: room for a bladder and little else, or room for a bladder and anything I could possibly want to bring with me. That is until I started using the women-specific Osprey Raven 10, which I find to be a happy medium between the two aforementioned categories.

A Reservoir Like No Other

The reservoir sits in a designated sleeve with a zipper that begins on the right shoulder, holding the hose in place. The bladder itself is made of metallocene, a material that is BPA- and PVC-free. I noticed no plastic taste either. It also features an easy-to-hold arched "arm" that makes grabbing ahold of the reservoir, filling it with water and screwing on the lid a dream. A HydroStatic backer plate keeps the bladder's upright shape as you consume the water during your ride. A strong magnet at the bite valve keeps the hose securely connected to the sternum strap. So secure, in fact, that I haven't yet experienced it detaching during a ride.

Ventilation & Organization

An AirScape back panel provides sufficient ventilation as well as cushioning on longer rides. Even the straps have a noticeable amount of ventilation front and back, a welcome feature in warm weather. Osprey says the ventilated harness is shaped to the female anatomy for a precise fit. I had no issues with the design at all – the shape felt just right on my five-foot-two-inch frame. The pack has seven compartments: one large main compartment with organizational dividers; a smaller pocket perfect for sunglasses, cell phones or keys; a stretchy semi-open pocket for quickly stashing clothes or gear; two waist pockets offering quick access to bars and gels; and one removable tool pouch at the very bottom. All but one compartment features zippers with plastic loops large enough to fit a gloved index finger. The front stretch pocket clips shut.

A Snug Fit

Compression straps at the lower end of the pack help to keep large loads sturdy. A full waist belt keeps the weight on your hips and also helps to keep things in place while pedaling. I found that if my pack ever swayed from side to side, a simple adjustment of either the compression strap

Additional Features

Though I have yet to put them to use, the Raven 10 also features a LidLock clip, a fast and easy design for attaching your helmet, and a loop made for attaching a rear bike light so you can be seen in low visibility settings.

The Raven 10 (as well as the Raven 6 and Raven 14) is the women's version of Osprey's Raptor series hydration packs, with female-specific harness, hipbelt and torso sizing. Available in Clover Green or Iris Purple. MSRP: \$120.

