



## Osprey Radial 34 Commuter Backpack Review

**Gear.com**

March 27, 2014

Commuter Backpack Review

Featuring: Radial 34

Monthly Traffic: 25,200

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/lbkxztg>

Osprey has been making bike-specific packs for awhile. They have pretty much nailed it with the **Osprey Radial 34 Commuter Backpack**.

### Osprey Radial Commuter 34 Backpack Review

The **Osprey Radial 34 Commuter Backpack** is absolutely packed with features. The list is long. Osprey did a great job putting this pack together. Here are my favorite features (in no particular order):

The mesh back panel is awesome! The biggest downfall of commuting with a backpack is sweaty back. The mesh back panel comes pretty darn close to eliminating this. The pack bows away from your back with the mesh panel sitting against your back. It helps with airflow, especially when it's windy. You'll still end up with a little bit of a sweaty back but it's won't be as gnarly as other packs.

With the Radial you'll get a lot of pockets and organization. You get a padded laptop sleeve with a zippered, padded tablet sleeve inside; a big main compartment with a handful of mesh pockets and buckle pocket; a front compartment with a bunch more pockets; a small zippered pocket; and an outer mesh, buckled stash pocket for your u lock or wet items. Two zippered stash/water bottle pockets round it out. There are so many options that after about six months of use I still haven't used them all! It always seems with packs you could always use one more. Not in this case!





The LidLock Helmet Clip is pretty cool. I never have enough room in my pack to stash my helmet. The LidLock is a great solution. It's a little tricky to get it in place but once it's there your helmet isn't going anywhere. The first couple times I used it I kept banging my helmet on the wall or desk or door because I wasn't used to having to accommodate for it being on the outside. Definitely handy, especially if you're going to the store or anywhere you need free hands to carry stuff around.

The tiny features. In a lot of ways these are what make or break a commuting pack for me. Osprey included a blinky light loop, tons of reflective accents on the back panel and shoulder straps, and the key fob. Don't roll your eyes at the key fob. I have a paranoia about losing keys. The key fob keeps me sane.

It does come with a built in rain cover which is nice (and gives a ton of visibility). I have yet to use it, even after a full winter in CO and the big rain storms in the fall. The pack by itself has been sufficiently waterproof.

There's a few things I wish the Radial had. The biggest (and almost deal breaker for me) is the bottom is not flat and cannot stand up on its own. When it comes to loading a commuter pack whether you're at work, the market, the library, or wherever, being able to stand up on its own is key. The Radial can't. I would have loved to see a cell phone pocket on the shoulder strap. It does have a loop you could attach to though. Lastly it doesn't have any gear loops or many places to hook bungees. The commuter load gets big sometimes and you gotta bungee things on the back. You can make it work with existing straps but I haven't felt totally confident that things are secure.

All that said, the pros definitely outweighed the cons for me. In short, the Radial is a great commuter pack.

### **The Good**

- Tons of features
- Great commuting focused items
- Roomy with a lot of pocket options

### **The Bad**

- Cannot stand on the floor by itself
- No gear loops for bungees

### **Bottom Line:**

Great pack for a commuter.

