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HOME & GARDEN

Ninja FrostVault Hard Cooler Review

THE NINJA FROSTVAULT IS A GREAT HARD COOLER FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG KIDS



Written and Tested by [Jonathan Chan](#), senior manager of lab operations with a decade of experience testing products.

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When summer rolls around, it's time to consider replacing your old moldy cooler with a more modern design. That's what the **Ninja FrostVault (available at Ninja)** hopes to be. We tested the 50-quart version, and after spending a week with it, we think its features make it ideal for families going on short trips. The titular FrostVault is a compartment chilled by the ice in the central cavity, but the vault stays dry. This feature lets you access cold food and drink without digging through ice cubes. The limited storage space and insulation aren't ideal for backcountry trips. If that's what you're looking for, we'd suggest checking out our [complete list of hard coolers we've tested in our labs](#).

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About the Ninja FrostVault hard cooler



Pros and Cons

- + Special dry compartment
- + Easy to secure
- Below average cold retention

About the Ninja FrostVault hard cooler

Ninja FrostVault Cooler Review



- **Dimensions:** 32.2" x 17.07" x 18.78" (L x W x H)
- **Weight:** 29 pounds
- **Capacity:** 80 cans (with no ice)
- **Finishes:** White, blue, gray

The Ninja FrostVault FB151 is a hard cooler with a separate compartment that remains cool and dry. The interior can hold approximately 45 cans with ice and 80 cans when empty. It comes in three shades: **white** , **lakeshore blue**, and **slate gray** . For security, the FrostVault has latches and two padlock holes to secure the lid and a slide to hold the DryZone shut. Finally, it has two rotomolded handles for transport.

What we like

Your items are safe in the DryZone



The DryZone is a drawer under the main cavity that slides open.

The DryZone, a compartment underneath the main cavity where you place the ice, is a standout feature of the Ninja FrostVault. It chills the vault without direct contact, ensuring your items stay dry. This design not only prevents your hand from getting drenched in melting ice but also provides easy access to your chilled items.

Our testing of the central cavity half-filled with ice revealed the impressive performance of the Ninja FrostVault. It maintained our temperature sensors at a cool 40°F for an astounding 66 hours. These results demonstrate that the FrostVault's insulation is more than capable of maintaining a cool environment for a weekend getaway at the beach.

This Ninja cooler is easy to secure

No one wants their cooler to pop open when you're on the road, spilling ice and food everywhere. During testing, we found that no amount of jostling or being dropped could make the draw latch come loose. It does make opening the lid a little more complicated, but the peace of mind is worth it.

The second feature we wanted to highlight is the hole for a padlock, which is ideal for keeping the kids and the general public out of the adult beverage section of your cooler. The DryZone doesn't lock, so your little ones can access their snacks.

What we don't like

Storage in the DryZone can be tight



You can't items that are taller than 2.5 inches in the DryZone, limiting your options.

The DryZone comes in two cramped 8.5-inch by 11-inch long by 2.5-inch tall sections. You can't stand a can of soda up in there. We understand that the giant divider between the two sections is for organizing, but we think the design would offer more storage if it had one large tray with a removable piece.

To this in perspective, a cooler basket from an RTIC, which the Dryone replaces, is a little more forgiving. The basket for the 45-quart cooler measures 11.75 inches by 9.75 inches and is 3 inches deep.

Initial malodor (re: it doesn't smell good)

When we first unboxed the Ninja FrostVault, we noticed the smell first. It had a strong, hot plastic scent that everyone in the lab thought was unpleasant. We ended up whipping down the interior with warm water and soap and letting the whole thing air dry to reduce the odor.

Most coolers have an initial weird smell, but it's rare for one to make us go, "Woah, that's a bit much."

The insulation isn't as good as other hard coolers



Credit: Reviewed / Jonathan Chan

The insulation is good enough for fine for short trips, but not backcountry hauls.

When we test coolers, we fill the main cavity halfway up with ice and then place multiple temperature loggers to measure how long it takes to rise above 40°F. The main cavity took an average of 82 hours to warm up, while the DryZone remained cold for about 66 hours. For most people, this insulation performance is perfectly serviceable but it won't be good enough for long trips.

However, if you're interested in the best insulation at a similar price point, we'd suggest checking out the **RTIC Ultralight**. It kept our temperature sensors cold for 101 hours.

What are consumers saying?

We reviewed the Ninja FrostVault pretty early in its lifecycle, so there are about 100 user reviews out at the time of publication —almost all from people who received the cooler as a gift. People liked the DryZone and how durable the construction is. A few users noted a lot of competition at this price point and questioned the value FrostVault provided.

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Should you buy the Ninja FrostVault?

Yes, if you like bringing sandwiches and veggies to the beach

The FrostVault can maintain coldness for days, although there are other coolers that perform better in this aspect. It's a suitable choice for daytrippers and weekenders. However, if you're in need of longer-term storage, we recommend considering the **RTIC Ultralight**.

The Ninja FrostVault is a hard cooler ideal for families with kids on day trips. We tested the 50-quart variant, which kept the main cavity under 40°F for 82 hours and on the low side for a hard cooler.

Overall, the FrostVault is a good choice for families embarking on short beach trips. Its features, such as the DryZone and impressive insulation, are tailored to meet the needs of such trips, giving you peace of mind it will keep your food and drinks cold.



Ninja FrostVault Hard Cooler

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