



MARCH 2009 | CONSUMERREPORTS.ORG

ConsumerReports®

**ALERT:
5 NEW
MONEY
TRAPS**
Page 22

Laptop cases to fly with

When you're going through airport security—kicking off shoes, removing a belt, and holding your ticket in your teeth—wrestling a laptop from its case can be the last straw. We inspected several cases designed to go through security with the laptop still inside, looking for protective padding, secure straps, space to store accessories, ease of handling, and checkpoint friendliness. All serve their purpose; your choice will depend on your needs and budget.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Transportation Security Administration says a checkpoint-friendly laptop bag should have a section that holds only a laptop, unfold so that the laptop lies flat on the X-ray belt, lack metal zippers or snaps, and have no pockets. For more, go to www.tsa.gov.



Aerovention Checkpoint-Friendly \$130 (aerovention.com)
For laptops up to 15.4 inches (larger version fits those up to 17 inches). Separate laptop-only and accessory sections are joined at top by D-rings and handles, secured by Velcro. Lay bag flat for security check; pick up handle, and sections fall together. Fasten latches, or Velcro can separate, splitting bag in two.



BuiltNY Sleeve \$40 (builtinny.com)
For laptops up to 15 inches (other versions fit bigger and smaller sizes). Wet-suit-grade neoprene stretches over laptop and gives it extra padding if you place it inside a separate carry-on. Sleek, hourglass-shaped sleeve is stain resistant and machine washable.



Skooba Skins \$20 (skoobadesign.com)
For laptops up to 13.3 inches (other versions fit bigger and smaller sizes). Starts out as two-handled tote; flip flap to turn it into a sleeve that tucks inside a suitcase. Lightweight. There's no accessory compartment that can be scanned separately, so remove extras before sending case through security.



Targus Zip-Thru Corporate Traveler \$100 (targus.com)
For laptops up to 15.4 inches. Compartments zip apart, butterfly-style, to lay flat with laptop on one side for scanning. Other side holds zip-down workstation with nooks for business cards, pens, files. Padding adjusts for laptops of various sizes but can be awkward to shift.

MARCH 2009 WWW.CONSUMERREPORTS.ORG 9

**Get free TV
or pay less
for cable**

**We rate
100+ plasma
& LCD sets**

**Movie wars:
Netflix beats
Blockbuster**

