

# HOW TO PUT SURFBOARDS ON A CAR USING THE SURF CLUB'S (OR ANY) "SOFT" RACK

SOFT RACKS WILL WORK ON NEARLY ANY 4-DOOR CAR, AND MANY 2-DOORS MODELS

The Surf Club has all you will need. Just make sure the rack isn't already reserved.

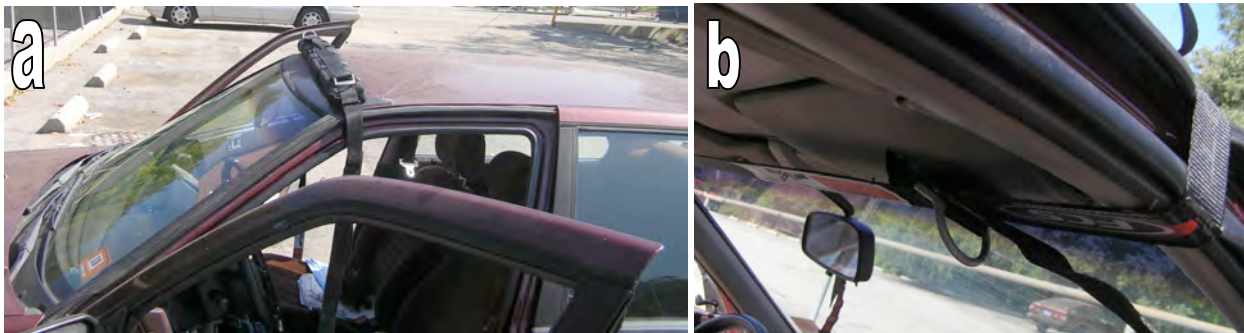
## DISCLAIMER:

DO NOT USE THE SOFT RACK FOR WINDSURF BOARDS, SEA KAYAKS OR ANYTHING OTHER THAN SURFBOARDS!

IF YOU DAMAGE CLUB EQUIPMENT MOUNTING IT ON A CAR RACK, OR IF IT COMES OFF THE RACK WHILE DRIVING, YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL DAMAGE CAUSED, *NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY YOU FOLLOWED THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW!*

1. You will find the FCS brand soft rack in a yellow bag in the cabinet with the wetsuits. Inside, you will find two separate pieces. Before using it, always check the integrity of the straps and buckles. Look for any weakened or broken straps or parts. **DON'T USE THE RACK IF IT LOOKS DAMAGED IN ANY WAY!**

Lay one of the two pieces on top of your car as show in **Figure 1a**. Lay the two foam pads on the front-most part of the car so that the straps will go directly through the interior of the car, through the doors.



**Figure 1:** Lay the pads on top of the car so that the straps go directly through the doors. Make sure to put it right side up! Run the straps through the door holes.

2. There are two straps longer than the others, one with a metal buckle on the end. Put these straps through the car, inside the doors... otherwise you'll fasten your doors shut with the rack! **TIP:** If you put the rack on the car so that the **strap with the buckle goes through the driver's door**, the buckle and extra length of strap will not be in the driver's way (**Figure 1b**).

Go to Page 4 and see **Figure 7** to see how to fasten the buckle correctly. **TIGHTEN THE STRAP INSIDE THE CAR VERY TIGHTLY.** Always run the end of the strap through the large hoop on the buckle as a safety knot, as in **Figure 2**. Tuck away the rest of the strap so it doesn't get in your way.



**Figure 2:** Attach the long strap to the buckle inside the car (see **Figure 7** how to use the buckle), and always use a safety after tightening the strap tightly. Tuck away the excess strap.

There are some metal parts of the rack, which, if you have a narrow car, may be near the door frame. Be careful that these parts are not caught in the door, as it will damage your car as well as the rack.



Repeat this procedure with the second piece of the rack, this time putting it as far towards the back of the car as possible while still passing the straps through the interior of the car (**Figure 3**).



**Figure 3:** The two pieces of the rack securely and tightly attached to the car, so as to be as far apart as possible.

Tighten both sets of straps tightly and don't forget to use safety knots (see Page 4, **Figure 7**). THE STRAPS PASSING THROUGH THE INSIDE OF THE CAR HOLD EVERYTHING TO YOUR CAR! MAKE SURE THEY ARE SECURE!

**3.** Take the surfboard and carefully lay it down on the foam padding, first making sure all the buckles and straps are out of the way (see **Figure 4**). This can be difficult and clumsy, especially on a car or SUV with a high roof. BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO BANG THE BOARD INTO THE CAR (OR ANYTHING ELSE)! Make sure antennas, etc. are all out of the way before putting the board on the car.



**Figure 4:** Place the surfboard with its fin facing up, and mass approximately centered over the two pads (perhaps slightly more towards the back of the car).

Put the boards on **ALWAYS WITH THE FINNS FACING UP**. You can put the board(s) with the fin towards the front or the back of the car. The fin will provide some extra security against the board sliding off the car. Would you rather the fin stop the boards from sliding off the back of the car if the straps get a little loose, or would you rather the fin stop the boards from shooting off the front of the car if you stop short? Take your pick! I prefer the fins in back...

The leashes should be tightly wrapped around the back of the board and attached so it will not come loose while driving (see **Figure 5**). If you can't wrap the leash securely, you can take it off to drive, but **ALWAYS PUT THE LEASHES BACK ON THE BOARDS**.

4. To mount just a single board, go to **Step 5**.

To mount 2, 3 or 4 boards, stack them, but **NEVER STACK MORE THAN 2 BOARDS ON TOP OF EACH OTHER** (you can also mount 2 boards side by side—see **Figure 9**).

To stack two boards, **ALWAYS PUT FOAM PADDING BETWEEN THE BOARDS**. There are strips of foam padding in the clubhouse. Place a pair of these foam strips on top of the board, one directly above each pad of the rack (as in **Figure 5a**). Then place the next board on the foam pads. **TIP:** If it's windy, have somebody else hold the foam strips in place while you place the surfboard on top.

When putting stacking surfboards on top of each other, always put the longest board on the bottom. **MAKE SURE THERE IS A 1-2 INCH GAP BETWEEN THE FIN OF THE BOTTOM BOARD AND THE ON TOP** (see **Figure 5b**).



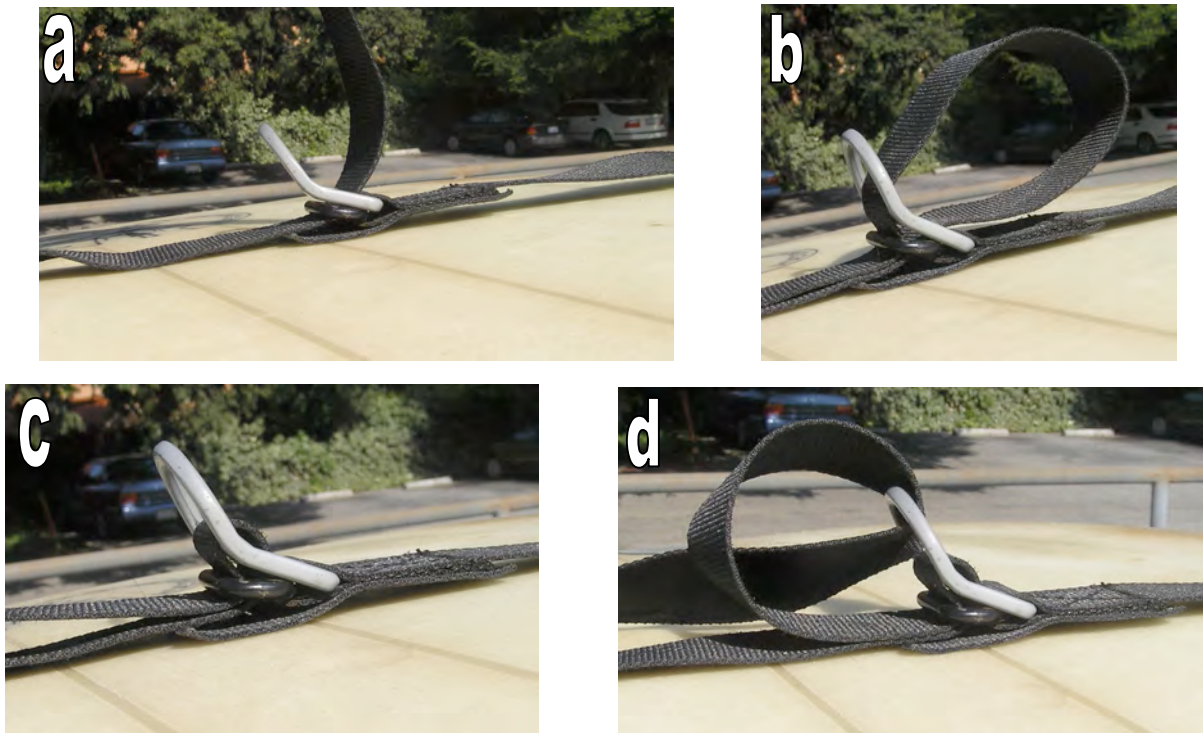
**Figure 5:** Foam padding between the boards is essential (**5a**). Put one pad above each part of the rack, so it will be underneath where the strap runs. Make sure the fin of one board never touches the back of the board on top (**5b**).

Make sure that the center of mass of the board(s) is over the rack's two foam pads. This may mean that the bottom-most board is fairly far back (forward if mounted fin in front). However, the boards should not extend much past the windshield or back of the car. **TIP:** Always put the longer board on the bottom. That way the boards will fit better when stacked up.



**Figure 6:** A pair of boards centered over the rack's two parts is most stable.

5. Lay the straps over the top of the boards. The straps should not be twisted and should run flat over the edges of the boards so that the strap does not cut into the board. Fasten the buckle on top of the surfboards as shown below:



**Figure 7:** To fasten the buckle, follow these four steps carefully! **(a)** Run the end of the strap under the back ring and through the lower part of the grey buckle. **(b)** Run the end of the strap through upper part of the grey buckle and back through the black ring. **MAKE SURE YOU RUN THE STRAP THROUGH THE BLACK RING BOTH COMING AND GOING!** **(c)** Tighten the strap firmly, but **DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN!** **(d)** Run the end of the strap back through the upper portion of the grey buckle to act as a safety knot.

6. Gently, but firmly, tighten the straps until the boards are securely fastened. **DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN THE STRAPS!!!!** You can easily crush the edge of the board with the strap! The board should simply be immobilized.

If mounting two boards, make sure there is still a gap between the two boards from the foam padding so THE TWO BOARDS ARE NOT TOUCHING ANYWHERE.

Vibrations and movement from by driving will cause the stack of boards to settle somewhat. CHECK THAT YOUR STAPS HAVE NOT LOOSENED UP BEFORE DRIVING ON THE FREEWAY! RE-TIGHTEN YOUR STRAPS IF THE BOARDS MOVING AROUND ON YOUR ROOF WHILE DRIVING!!!



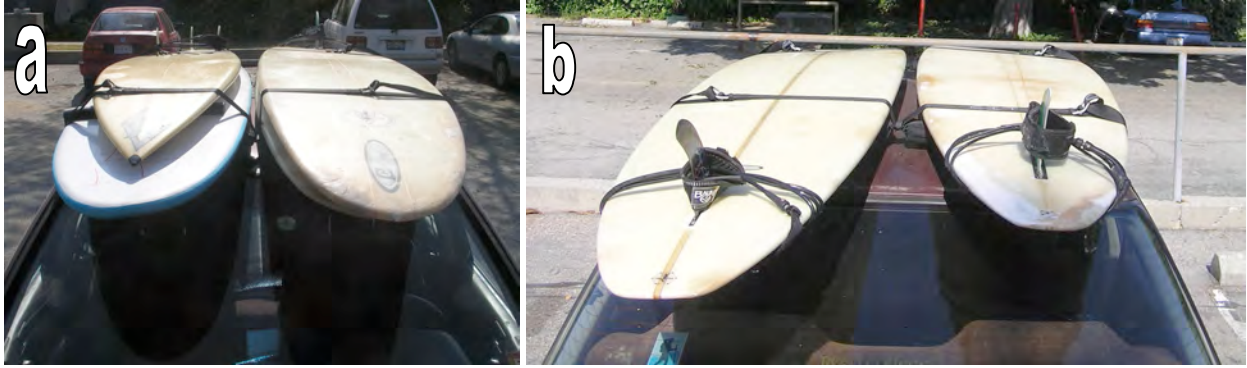
**Figure 8:** (a) Straps tightened, with safety knots, and the excess strap tucked into the car. (b) You can wrap the excess around the handle to keep it out of the way.

If only mounting a single board, or mounting two boards on the same side of the rack, tighten down the straps on the other side of the rack as you did above, but without a surfboard underneath! This will prevent the metal buckle from flying around and damaging your car or the surfboard(s). As before, tuck the excess strap inside the car.



7. To mount a second pair boards, go back to **Step 3** and repeat, now on the other side of the rack. **TIP:** Place the buckles to the top of the other board(s) before you start on the other side... otherwise it's a real pain to get that buckle out from under there! Place the buckles gently on top of the boards... they can damage the boards and/or your car!

You can mount a **MAXIMUM OF 4 TOTAL BOARDS** using the soft rack. You can of course also put 1, 2 or 3 boards, using various configurations.

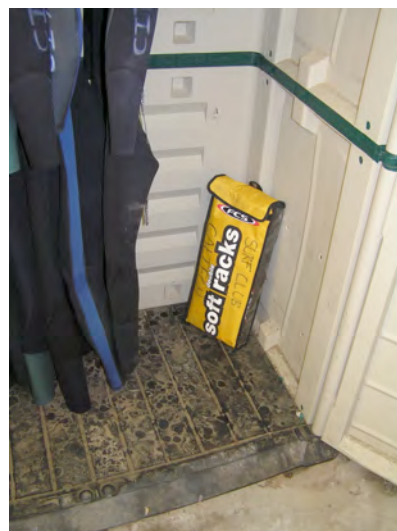


**Figure 9:** You can carry one board, two boards stacked, two boards with one on each side (9b), three boards (2 and 1), or a total of four boards (9a) on a soft car rack. **DO NOT PUT MORE THAN 2 BOARDS ON EACH SIDE THE RACK!**

**DRIVE CAREFULLY AND KEEP YOUR EYE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING ON TOP OF YOUR CAR! IF IN DOUBT, PULL OVER AND CHECK!**

**SURFBOARDS FLYING OFF A CAR CAN KILL PEOPLE.  
ATTACH THEM SECURELY.**

**8.** When you return to the clubhouse, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO RETURN THE SOFT RACK TO IT'S YELLOW BAG, PUT IT IN THE WETSUIT CABINET, AND LOCK IT BEHIND YOU. Also, if you took leashes off the boards, please put them back on, keeping track of which leash goes with which board!



**Figure 10:** Always put the rack back into the yellow storage bag, and put it back into the locked wetsuit cabinet, where it should always be stored!