



General Variocage Set Up Guidelines:

The proper set up and use of the MIM Safe Variocage is important for the safety of your pets, family and loved ones. Most of these safety guidelines apply to ANY Dog Kennel placed in your cargo area. Please consider our recommendations regardless of which dog kennel you may use to transport your pets.

The crumple zone and escape hatch are just a few of the Variocage features that make this crate so innovative and unique. Variocage is also the ONLY Crash Tested Dog Cage in the world tested for Front, Rear and Rollover Impacts using Government Automotive Safety Standards accepted worldwide.

In addition, Variocage is the only Crash Tested Dog Cage certified using human crash test dummies and designed to work in harmony with the safety features of all modern vehicles.

In order to utilize all of the safety features of the Variocage, it is important to follow the manufacturer's guidelines.

Here are our recommendations:

- 1) Variocage should always be situated with the front doors of the crate facing the rear door of your vehicle and the emergency hatch placed securely against the 2nd or 3rd row rear seat. This is the correct placement and positioning of the Variocage and will ensure that the Variocage Crumple Zone works effectively as designed and engineered.
- 2) Never place a Variocage "sideways" Placing a Variocage sideways is not the recommended by the manufacturer since the Variocage Crumple Zone engineering is effectively defeated in this position.
- 3) Do not put the Variocage on any solid platform. This is very dangerous. A solid platform will act as a battering ram in a rear end impact and transfer energy into the vehicle and seats, effectively defeating your vehicle's safety engineering. In addition, a solid platform can splinter, break and penetrate seat backs causing potential harm to your dog, as well as human occupants. If necessary, you may raise the Variocage a few inches using foam insulation panels. You can purchase these foam insulation panels from Lowes or Home Depot in various thicknesses to suit the height you need. These foam panels will simply disintegrate in a rear end collision without causing any harm to your dog or human occupants in the vehicle. Please make sure that foam panel is flush with the floor of the vehicle and do not use it as a raised platform for your cage.

4) Variocage must be setup with the rear of the Variocage making contact with the 2nd or 3rd row rear seat. It is OK to place the Variocage Double or Single against Captain's Chairs that have a gap between the two 2nd row seats, as long as the cage makes contact with the seat backs.

5) Variocage should never be placed behind the driver's seat or the front side passenger seat. The 2nd and 3rd row rear seats in current production vehicles include a metal plate to protect human occupants from impacts by objects being transported in the cargo area. The Variocage is designed to work with your vehicle's safety engineering features and will dissipate the energy of the impact across the surface area of the rear seat, while absorbing energy generated during impact with its crumple zone. Variocage has been tested using the SPCT Method, which utilizes a combination of Government Automotive Safety Standards accepted worldwide.

6) Never stack Variocage. A 2nd cage or objects placed on the top of any crate in a cargo space are not secure and may likely become dangerous projectiles in a crash, potentially causing injury or death to passengers or drivers in the vehicle.

7) Never bolt a Variocage down in your vehicle. Doing this will defeat the Variocage unique and lifesaving crumple zone engineering. This crumple zone is designed to work with your vehicle's safety engineering, protecting both your dog and all human occupants in your vehicle.

8) Make sure your Variocage is mounted level and setup against a 2nd or 3rd row rear seat in your cargo space. Typically, crates can be off level when placed in a space that is too narrow or when placed on seats that do not fold down flat causing the cage to tip upwards in the rear. Make sure when measuring your vehicle for a Variocage that the narrowest point of your trunk space is wider than the width of your crate. If you have an uneven floor surface, you may wish to place a foam panel under your crate as noted in Guideline #3 above. Again, please make sure that foam panel is flush with the floor of the vehicle, and do not use it as a platform.

9) It is recommended that you use a second person to assist you when moving a larger Variocage. It is OK to lift the Variocage by the side rails. This is the easiest way to grip and move a Variocage in and out of your vehicle.

Please refer to this FAQ for more information:

<https://4x4northamerica.com/variocage-faq/>