

Strapinno vs Erickson: Choosing the Right 1-Inch Retractable Ratchet Straps for Outdoor Use

When you spend a lot of time outdoors, the gear you use gets tested. I have been through more tie-down straps than I can count, from cheap nylon webbing that frayed after two trips to heavy-duty straps that took forever to wind back. Over the years, I have settled on a few brands that actually work. Two names that come up often in discussions among campers and overlanders are Strapinno and Erickson. Both make retractable ratchet straps, but they approach the problem differently. If you are looking at Strapinno vs Erickson for your next set of 1-inch straps, the choice depends on what you value more: speed of use or raw holding power.

Why Retractable Ratchet Straps Matter for Outdoor Gear

Standard tie-down straps work fine until you have to store them. The loose webbing tangles, picks up dirt, and gets caught on everything. Retractable ratchet straps solve that by using a spring-loaded mechanism that pulls the webbing back into the housing when you release the tension. This makes them ideal for camping tie-downs because you can set up and break down camp faster. For anyone who has wrestled with a pile of loose straps at the end of a long day, that convenience is worth a lot.



The 1-inch width is a sweet spot for most outdoor applications. It is strong enough for securing coolers, camping chairs, tents, and gear boxes, but narrow enough to thread through small D-rings and slots on racks. Both Strapinno and Erickson offer 1-inch retractable ratchet straps, but the details in the ratchet mechanism and the webbing material make a real difference in how they perform over time.

Strapinno vs Erickson: The Build and First Impressions

Strapinno straps use polyester webbing, which resists UV damage and mildew better than standard nylon straps. That matters if you leave your straps on a roof rack for a weekend in the sun or store them damp after a rainy trip. The ratchet mechanism on Strapinno straps feels smooth right out of the package. The handle opens easily, and the spring-loaded retraction works reliably even with a bit of dirt on the webbing. I have used them for securing a kayak on a car-top carrier and for strapping down a load of firewood, and they have not shown any signs of slipping.

Erickson straps are built more for heavy-duty use. They use thicker nylon webbing that feels stiffer initially. The ratchet mechanism is a bit bulkier, but it gives you extra leverage when

cinching down a load. Erickson straps tend to have larger S-hooks and D-rings, which can be an advantage if you are working with thick anchor points on a trailer or a truck bed. The trade-off is that the retraction is not as snappy as Strapinno. Over time, I have found that Erickson straps require a bit more care when winding back, especially if the webbing gets dirty or wet.



In a direct [Strapinno vs Erickson](#) comparison, Strapinno wins on ease of use and maintenance, while Erickson wins on raw strength and durability in demanding conditions.

Real-World Testing: Camping and Overlanding

I took both sets of straps on a week-long camping trip in the Sierra Nevada. The Strapinno straps were my go-to for quick tie-downs like securing a tent bag to the roof rack or lashing a folding table to the tailgate. The retraction kept the webbing clean and tangle-free, which made packing up each morning much faster. The ratchet mechanism never jammed, even after a few days of dust and morning dew. For load securement that needs to be adjusted frequently, Strapinno is hard to beat.

The Erickson straps came out for the heavy stuff. I used them to secure a loaded action packer and a 20-gallon water tank to the bed of a pickup. The extra leverage in the ratchet mechanism let me get the straps tighter without fighting the handle. The nylon webbing held up well against sharp edges on the plastic bins. The trade-off was that the retraction was slower and

sometimes needed a manual push to get the webbing back inside. For cargo control jobs where you set it and forget it, Erickson is a solid choice.

Comparing Key Features

- **Webbing material:** Strapinno uses polyester webbing that resists UV and mildew. Erickson uses nylon straps that are stronger but more prone to absorbing water and degrading in sunlight over time.
- **Ratchet mechanism:** Strapinno has a smoother, easier-to-use mechanism that is ideal for frequent adjustments. Erickson has a bulkier mechanism that gives more leverage for heavy loads.
- **Hardware:** Strapinno uses smaller, lighter D-rings and S-hooks that work well with camping gear. Erickson uses larger, heavier hardware that fits thicker anchor points.
- **Retraction:** Strapinno retracts quickly and reliably. Erickson retracts more slowly and can be finicky with dirty webbing.
- **Price:** Strapinno generally costs a bit less than Erickson, though prices vary by retailer.

If you are comparing Strapinno vs Erickson for everyday outdoor use, the decision really comes down to how you prioritize speed versus strength.



How They Stack Up Against Other Brands

Strapinno and Erickson are not the only players in the 1-inch retractable ratchet strap market. Rhino USA makes a solid strap that sits somewhere between the two. Rhino USA straps use a similar polyester webbing to Strapinno but with slightly thicker hardware. They are a good middle ground if you want some of the convenience of Strapinno with a bit more durability. DC Cargo also offers retractable straps, though their focus is more on heavy-duty trucking applications than on outdoor gear. Their 1-inch straps work fine for camping, but the hardware tends to be oversized for lighter loads.

For budget-conscious buyers, Amazon Basics and Keeper both offer retractable straps that cost less. In my experience, Amazon Basics straps work well for light duty but the ratchet mechanism can stick after a few uses. Keeper straps are a bit better, but the webbing is thinner and the retraction is less reliable. If you plan to use your straps regularly for camping tie-downs, spending a little more on Strapinno or Erickson is worth it.

Practical Tips for Choosing and Using Retractable Straps

When you buy retractable ratchet straps, check the working load limit. Most 1-inch straps are rated for around 300 to 500 pounds, which is fine for securing gear but not for lifting. Always use straps in a way that avoids sharp edges, and inspect the webbing for cuts or fraying before each trip. Polyester webbing is generally more UV-resistant than nylon, so if you leave your straps on a rack in direct sun, polyester is the better choice. For straps that will be stored inside a vehicle or tent, nylon is fine and offers a bit more strength per width.

Another thing to consider is the hook style. Flat S-hooks work well for most anchor points, but J-hooks are better for rails and tubes. Strapinno uses flat S-hooks that are easy to attach and remove. Erickson often includes J-hooks on their heavy-duty models, which grip better on round bars but can be harder to unhook. For camping, I prefer flat S-hooks because they are faster to use.



Finally, always release the ratchet fully before retracting the strap. Forcing the retraction while the ratchet is still engaged can damage the spring mechanism. Both Strapinno and Erickson designs are robust, but no mechanism is indestructible.

The Bottom Line

Strapinno and Erickson both make excellent 1-inch retractable ratchet straps, but they serve slightly different needs. If you value convenience, fast setup, and easy maintenance, Strapinno is the better choice for outdoor gear and camping tie-downs. If you need extra strength for heavier loads and do not mind a bit more effort in winding back the webbing, Erickson is a solid workhorse. Either way, you are getting a step up from generic straps, and both brands are made in the USA or to high quality standards. For most outdoor enthusiasts, having a set of each is the ideal solution, using the Strapinno straps for daily tasks and the Erickson straps for the heavy lifting.