

Your kayak is designed to require minimal maintenance, and a little timely care will ensure a lifetime of enjoyment.

However, occasional operational check-ups should be carried out to keep your kayak in tip top condition. Check hatch covers, cables, buckles, straps and other moving parts for wear, and replace them when necessary. Keep all nuts tight and check hardware exit holes for watertight silicone seals. Give your hull and deck a thorough review whenever possible before going on water.

We have also provided some simple guidelines to help store, care and prevent damage to your kayak.

Transporting your Kayak

When you purchase your kayak from Freak Sports Australia, we ask you to do the following things as a duty of care and for your own safety.

Ensure that kayak is safely strapped to your roof or kayak rack during transportation. This is an important step in ensuring safety on roads and potential damage to your vehicle where kayak may become loose. We highly recommend for the kayak to be tied down with tie down straps without a ratchet lock. Also back end of the kayak to be strapped to the roof rack or another secure point on the car as third point of attachment. If you are not comfortable with tying down your kayak, there is a saying, if you can't tie knots, tie lots.

WARNING: Do not apply a great deal of pressure as it could damage or deform the kayak.

Initial Kayak Checks and Safety Requirements

When you purchase your kayak from Freak Sports Australia and prior to putting your kayak on water, we ask that you carry out a visual inspection of the kayak for any noticeable holes, deformations or damages as a duty of care and for your own safety. The following may be used as guide:

- ✓ Ensure that there are no obvious cracks, deformations, or damage
- ✓ Ensure hatch cover can close and open properly
- ✓ Ensure all bungee cords are in good order, free from cuts and tears
- ✓ Ensure all screws and bolts are tight and secure
- ✓ Ensure that there is no water or wet spots inside the hull
- ✓ Ensure the back bung hole is tight and secure

If you notice any holes or deformations, please do not place the kayak into water and attend the issues. Feel free to contact us for repair help.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR LATEST DOWNLOADS AND UPDATES

Version 01 – 05.2013

Web: www.freaksports.com.au - Post: Unit 26 / 37 Mortimer Road, Acacia Ridge Qld 4110 - Mob 1: 0405 353 420
Mob 2: 0401 681 079 – E-Mail: enquiries@freaksports.com.au

When you put your kayak for the first time in water, please follow the following recommended steps to rule out any unforeseen issues:

REMEMBER to gear up: life jacket, paddle with paddle leash strapped to your life jacket or the kayak.

- ✓ Go for minimum of 10 minutes paddle not far from shore or starting point
- ✓ Exit the water and check inside a hull for any leaks or water spots.
- ✓ Please note that it is normal to have a few wet spots in wet conditions, as the water will make its way down through hatches or flush mounted fishing rod holders.
- ✓ However, if there is substantial amount of water that you find it as a big risk, please don't proceed for extended period of time on water and visit our website for trouble shooting of the problem.

Kayak Care and Storage Tips

Tip 1: Protect It from the Elements

Sunlight can degrade just about any kayak hull material, from fiberglass to plastic to coated fabric.

- ✓ If house or garage storage is not possible, then try to find a shaded spot.
- ✓ If shade is limited or not available, find a weather-resistant tarp that will cover the entire hull at all times of day and ensure it is suspended above the hull, as contact with the hull promotes mould or fungal growth in wet conditions.
- ✓ If you store your kayak outside, make sure rain can't collect in the tarp and press down on the hull.
- ✓ Always store your kayaks well off the ground to prevent further mould or fungal growth.
- ✓ Always strap your kayak using tie down straps to prevent fall and damage of hull and/or accessories.
- ✓ Weather can also cause some hull materials to oxidize and/or degrade.
- ✓ Saltwater as well as polluted water can degrade hull materials and corrode metal parts. If you paddle in salt water, be sure to rinse your boat thoroughly with fresh water before you store it.



CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR LATEST DOWNLOADS AND UPDATES

Version 01 – 05.2013

Web: www.freaksports.com.au - Post: Unit 26 / 37 Mortimer Road, Acacia Ridge Qld 4110 - Mob 1: 0405 353 420
Mob 2: 0401 681 079 – E-Mail: enquiries@freaksports.com.au

Tip 2: Preventing Deformation and Basic Repair

Most kayak hulls will deform or bend over time if exposed to high heat sources and/or uneven weight distribution. Plastic and fabric hulls are the most susceptible to damage, but fiberglass and wood-hulled boats can also fall victim to this.

Support the boat at several points along its length, using padded cradles, angled surfaces and/or wide, nylon straps that match the curve of the hull.

Practices to avoid include:

- ✓ Supporting your kayak from its ends only.
- ✓ Standing it up on one end.
- ✓ Hanging it from its grab loops.
- ✓ Laying it down on its side on a flat surface for long periods of time.
- ✓ Storing it near a significant heat source like a furnace or water heater.

Light nicks, scratches and scrapes are part of the paddling experience, but deep scratches should be repaired. To prevent unnecessary wear to your kayak, do not drag the kayak across rough surfaces.

To keep your kayak hull from deforming, cracking or fading, you need to store it away from the sun or a heat source. However, should the hull on your kayak distorted due to an accident, improper storage or transportation, correction may be simple.

- Brief exposure to the heat of the sun often restores a hull to its original shape.
- If that fails, hull shape can often be restored by applying a low heat source (such as a low wattage bulb or hair dryer) to the deformed area.
- When the hull is pliable enough, hand-shaping can restore the hull.
- **CAUTION:** Overheating can burn you or damage the hull.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR LATEST DOWNLOADS AND UPDATES

Version 01 – 05.2013

Web: www.freaksports.com.au - Post: Unit 26 / 37 Mortimer Road, Acacia Ridge Qld 4110 - Mob 1: 0405 353 420
Mob 2: 0401 681 079 – E-Mail: enquiries@freaksports.com.au