

Identifying the Needed Repair

Your kayak is designed to require minimal maintenance, so with good care and treatment, your kayak should offer many carefree years of use. However, it is also important to note that no kayak is completely watertight and it is normal to take on up to a cup of water through rivets or hatches. Although, if your kayak is taking on significant amounts of water, you may have a pinhole leak and will likely require repair.

Is your kayak under warranty? If you've answered YES, then please contact Freak Sports Australia (www.freaksports.com.au/contact/) or your dealer for a free repair service.

If you've answered NO, then either locate the leak yourself (by filling the kayak with water and observing leaks), or contact your dealer for servicing to assist you to locate a repair dealer near you. Otherwise, by following these guidelines, most of these repairs can be done at home.

Use the table below as a guide to diagnose your problem. If at any point during a repair you encounter problems, please contact us for assistance, and we'll see to it you're back on the water in no time!

Problem	Potential Cause	Potential Solutions
Water in the kayak	Bow drain plug not in Rough water (i.e. stud) Crack or puncture in kayak Leaking hatch	Put drain plug in securely Empty kayak more often, secure hatches See WELDING See LEAKING HATCHES
Broken strap eye	Defective strap eye	See RE-DRILLING RIVETS
Damaged Strip	Abrasion or cut in strap	See RE-DRILLING RIVETS
Dent in kayak	Improper storage Hard impact	See kayak STORAGE See DENT REPAIR
Pulled out handle	Placing too much tension on handle (i.e., pulling on kayak when tied down, hanging by handles to store)	Seek professional advice or repair

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Welding

We always recommend that you seek professional advice or assistance if you are not experienced in repairing plastics. However, should you wish to attempt to repair your kayak, we suggest you practice welding several times on hatch cut-outs before attempting repairs on a kayak.

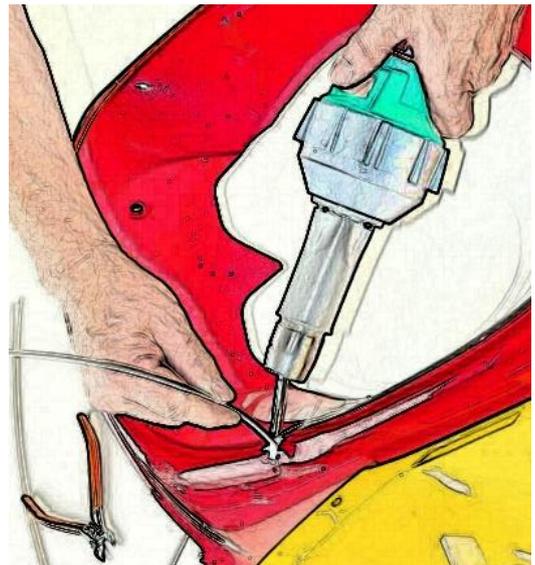
Tools recommended for the job:

- ✓ Welding heat gun with reducing nozzle
- ✓ Plastic polyethylene weld rod
- ✓ Scraper
- ✓ Pliers
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Hatch cut-outs

WARNING: Repairing kayaks is a delicate procedure. Be cautious when heating any material on or around a kayak. If, at any point, the kayak begins to melt and give way, STOP! Allow the kayak to cool before attempting to heat again. SOME REPAIRS MAY BE BETTER MADE BY YOUR PROFESSIONAL PADDLESPORTS SHOP.

Cracks

1. Ensure the surface that you are about to weld is clean of any grease, dirt or other contaminants.
2. Pre-heat the first 10mm of the welding rod with the welding heat gun. The rod itself should be at a visible melt (sweaty and wilting) prior to starting the weld.
3. Starting 10mm to 15mm before the crack lay the weld rod onto the plastic.
4. Aim the reducing nozzle at the base of the weld rod, and hold the end of the heat gun 25mm to 50mm from the plastic, melting the weld rod, while applying some heat to the kayak itself. **NOTE:** Angle the weld rod back away from the heat gun (see diagram).
5. Slowly start pushing the weld rod toward the crack. When the Kayak and the weld rod melt together well, there will be a slight bead of plastic forced in front of the weld rod as it is pushed into the crack.
6. Weld the crack closed and extend weld 10mm to 15mm beyond the end of the crack.
7. Cut the remaining weld rod off with a pair of wire cutters.
8. With gloved hands, smooth and merge the weld rod and kayak and allow to cool fully.
9. Test the quality of the weld by taking a flat blade screwdriver and attempt to pry up the weld rod. If the rod comes up, attempt the weld again. If the rod will not pull up, the boat and weld rod have blended to a solid weld.



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Small Holes

To fill small holes, such as rivet holes, heat the end of the weld rod to a visible melt. Insert the end into the hole and begin to twist the rod. Continue to apply heat to the weld rod just above the boat. Twist the weld rod so that it fills the hole. Cut the remaining weld rod off with wire cutters. Smooth and flatten the area with gloved hands.

Re-Drilling Rivets

Tools recommended for the job:

- ✓ Drill ✓ 4-5mm drill bit ✓ Scraper ✓ Needle nose pliers ✓ Centre punch ✓ Rivets ✓ Rivet Gun

If you require to remove a riveted part off the kayak, it is required that the rivet be drilled out. To do this, the following steps are recommended:

1. Using the centre punch, punch the centre of the rivet down. This will provide a pilot hole to make the drilling operation easier.
2. Use the correct size drill bit and drill straight down on the centre of the rivet. If the outer disk begins to spin, hold it in place with the needle nose pliers.
3. Once the hole is drilled out, a new rivet may then be installed. Making sure the rivet fits snugly in the hole replace the accessory and use the rivet gun to secure the rivet into place.
4. If the rivet does not suit the hole, refill the hole (see WELDING - Small Holes) and re-drill the hole with a correct size drill bit. Next, replace the broken part. If attaching a strap, be sure to use a washer between the rivet and the strap.

Dent Repair

Tools recommended for the job:

- ✓ Welding heat gun ✓ Gloves ✓ Small suction cups

It is important to note that often the dents in a kayak will pop out on their own or with a little heat, such as leaving the kayak outside in the sun or using a hair dryer.

If the dents will not come out, additional heat may need to be applied. Where the dent can be reached from inside the kayak, apply heat until the hull is just too hot to touch.

At this point, wearing gloves press the dent from the inside of the kayak and re shape. If your kayak doesn't have hatches and/or the dented area cannot be reached from the inside, small suction cups may be used to pull out the dent. Several may be needed for a large dent. Allow the kayak to cool in the 'pushed out' position.

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Leaking Hatches

It is not uncommon to have a leaking hatch and quite often it is a simple fix. If you are attempting to fix the leak, it is recommended you apply additional silicone around the inside and outside edges of the hatches and on any rivets.

Should this not fix the leak, some rivets may need to be replaced (see re-drilling rivets). Further, when replacing the rivets the "O" ring should be checked and replaced if necessary.

Remember, it's perfectly normal to get a cup or two of water in your kayak, especially if you've been paddling in choppy water. If your kayak is filling up with more than a few cups of water, contact your nearest dealer.

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