

Care and maintenance for the Long Haul II Hull

INFLATING YOUR SPONSONS

1. Proper alignment of your hull depends on properly inflating your sponsons. Partially inflate one side and then the other, alternating two or three times until sponsons are fully inflated. **DO NOT** fully inflate one side and then the other. This will pull the hull off center and your keelstrips will not protect their intended areas. Proper alignment is accomplished when the bow deck seam runs down the center of the bow deck bar. **NOTE: If you inflate your sponsons by mouth, inflate as fully as possible. When using a pump, be careful not to over inflate as this could cause damage to your sponsons.**

OVAL DECK HATCHES (OPTIONAL)

1. The hatch cover and inner roll down closure must be closed during the operation of the kayak. To close the inner closure, seal the Velcro and then roll the edge over three times and secure the side release buckle.
2. Stretch the hatch cover over the oval ring. These procedures will insure that the hatch is secure. (Shown next page)



ZIPPERED DECK HATCH (OPTIONAL)

Proper use and maintenance of the zippered flaps is very important to insure your safety and a long life for the zippers. The zippered hatch consists of a system of three flaps. The inner flap zips along both sides. A second flap folds over this zippered flap and a third flap folds from the other side and zips shut. This system provides double protection for the interior flap and provides an adequate back-up system in case of a zipper failure. We use # 10 YKK zippers. They are strong and durable but can be damaged with improper use. **NEVER FORCE THE ZIPPER.**

1. Be sure that your sponsons are deflated or are less than 50% inflated. Attempting to operate the zippers with the sponsons fully inflated will stress the zippers and the surrounding deck fabric and will eventually cause the zippers to fail.
2. Be sure that the inner flap is in the “closed” position before trying to slide the zippers.
3. If possible, slide both zippers at the same time.
4. Fold the second flap over the zippered flap. Smooth out any wrinkles.
5. Fold the third flap over the second. Zip it shut. Tuck the wide end of the third flap under the rubber flap that is sewn to the deck and secure this edge with the 1” webbing strap and buckle that are attached to the deck for this purpose.



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6. If the zipper on the top flap ever fails this flap can be secured by running shock cord or rope through the D-rings on the deck, in an “X” configuration over the flap.

PREPARING YOUR HULL FOR STORAGE

Proper folding of your hull is essential to reduce stress on the hull, keel strips, deck hatches and bumpers.

1. **ALWAYS**, rinse all parts of your kayak, including zippers (where applicable) with fresh water after saltwater use.
2. **ALWAYS**, be sure your hull is completely dry before folding and storing it. Any options you have added to your deck, such as hatches or Quattro sponsons, will increase the time needed for the hull to dry completely.
3. When laying your hull with zippered hatches out to dry, always unzip the zippers. Hulls with zippers should always be folded with the zippers unzipped.
4. **NEVER STORE YOUR KAYAK OUTSIDE. IT WILL BE DESTROYED.** If you must temporarily store your boat outside or transport it on top of your vehicle, you should strongly consider purchasing a Long Haul Kayak Cover.
5. We recommend treating the deck with 303-fabric guard and the hull with 303-rubber protector, inside and out at the very start of your kayaking season, and once at the end of your kayaking season. This recommendation is for a 3-4 month kayaking season, if you have a longer season, we recommend every 3 months, depending on usage.

FOLDING HULLS WITHOUT KEELSTRIPS

The methods for folding your hull are different if the hull has keelstrips.

1. Lay the hull out flat on its side, folded in half lengthwise. Tuck the cotton deck between the two rubber layers.
2. Do not make folds through bumpers.
3. Fold one end in toward the center 18 to 30 inches depending on desired final storage place.
4. Continue folding towards center and fold the other end in same manner.

FOLDING HULLS WITH KEELSTRIPS

There are two methods of folding your hull with keelstrips. It is important to remember that folding the hull along the length of, or across the keelstrips, puts stress on the keelstrips, so put as few folds as possible in the keelstrip and never fold the keelstrip in both directions. It is also important not to fold any part of the bumpers.

A. Method One

1. Lay the hull on the ground with the deck facing up.
2. Grasp the edge of the hull where the deck is sewn to the hull at the mid-point.
3. Fold this edge in toward the center. This fold should be one inch or more from the edge of the 2.5” keelstrip. **DO NOT FOLD** on the keelstrip.
4. Fold the other side edge in the same way.
5. Protect your hull by wrapping your rudder bracket up to avoid deck abrasion.

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6. Fold the ends of the hull toward the middle. (See step # 3 in folding hulls without keelstrips).
- B. Method Two
1. Lay the hull on the ground with the deck facing up.
 2. Follow instructions # 2 and 3 above.
 3. Grasp the other edge of the hull and fold toward the center having the fold fall between the 10" keelstrip and the 2.5" keelstrip. The fold on this side will be wider than the fold on the other side.
 4. Same as above step #5 & 6.

The advantage of the second method with keelstrips is that the bumpers tend to lay more flat which creates less stress on them. When folding your hull always strive to keep the keelstrips and bumpers as stress free as possible. It is recommended that you change the placement of the folds each time so that your hull will not develop creases. Always avoid putting double folds in the keelstrips.

Ideally, you should have as few folds as possible in your hull.

Always store your hull in a cool, dry, dark place.

Make sure that the area that you have chosen to store your kayak and accessories is not already a home to mice, and check it frequently for any signs of rodent invasion. Mice enjoy your kayak like you, but for very different reasons. They like to build colorful nests!

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