

KAYAK INSPECTION and MAINTENANCE

Southern Nevada Paddling Club

I. KAYAK INSPECTION – Fiberglass, Kevlar and Plastic

The following should be inspected at least every six months. Replace any worn parts with kayak manufacture approved items.

A. Hatch covers – Gaskets and rubber seals.

B. Rudder Cables

1. Remove screws at cable ends – inspect cable and screws for wear.
2. Examine cable eyes and clamps for wear or damage.
3. Check for frayed sections along cable length.

C. Rudder Assembly - Remove Screws and inspect all parts for wear.

D. Bulk Heads

1. Visual – inspect for loose or cracked caulking around bulkheads
2. Water leak test - pour 1 quart to ½ gallon of water into the compartment next to the bulkhead. Raise one end of the kayak so that the water is against the bulkhead; inspect for water drops on opposite side of bulkhead. May require support under raised end, and rotation of kayak to wet various sections of bulkhead.
3. If water leaks are detected –

E. Cockpit Coaming – check for delaminating epoxy, cracks and chips.

- Refer to the notes section below for repair procedures if damage is detected.

F. Hanging Seats & Back Rest - Inspect for:

1. Elliptical screw holes.
2. Loose or worn screws.
3. Worn seat parts.
4. Brittle plastic buckles.

G. Foot Braces and Rails

1. Loose screws and wear.
2. Burrs and sharp edges.
2. Refer to the notes section below for repair procedures.

H. Deck Rigging – wear or damage

- Check all bungee cords for elasticity. Replace cords with uneven thickness, shows internal damage.

I. General Hardware – loose or damaged.

J. Carrying Handles & Loops - wear or damage

K. Bowline - wear or damage.

II. KAYAK GENERAL MAINTENANCE - Fiberglass, Kevlar and Plastic

A. Hull Maintenance

1. **Cleaning** - Use a mild soap and water
2. **Hard water stains** – White vinegar and water solution; 30 percent vinegar and 70 percent water. Place solution in a spray bottle and apply on small area, wipe clean with paper towel or soft cloth.
3. **Waxing/Polish** – Use a good quality marine Wax/Polish.
 - You can use a polishing cloth or a small electric polishing machine (use light pressure).
 - Remove all deck lines prior to applying polish
4. **Ultraviolet (UV) protection** – spray deck and hull with 303 Protectant. This product is also good for spray skirts, PFD's and other fabric equipment.
5. **UV Hull Damage** – Use a rubbing compound to remove chalky surface. Then apply a Marine polish. Finish by applying a coat of 303 Protectant.

B. Foot Braces and Rails

1. Loose screws and wear.
2. Burrs and sharp edges.
3. Lubricate as needed.

Refer to the notes section below for repair procedures

C. Deck Lines

1. Use a mild soap and water to clean.
2. Refer to the notes section below for repair procedures.

General Notes:

1. Repair procedures are provided in the Southern Nevada Paddling Club's "KAYAK MAINTENANCE and REPAIR" Document.
2. Great Book for Repair and Maintenance for most outdoor equipment: The **Essential Outdoor Gear Manual**, Annie Getchell, Ragged Mountain Press.
3. When in doubt about maintenance or repairs procedures contact the manufacture for guidance.