



## **Delta Kayaks Repair and Maintenance Instructions**

Delta Kayaks are manufactured using the finest virgin thermoplastic materials making them tough and resilient to general wear and tear encountered during normal use. In the event that a kayak is damaged due to some unforeseen trauma or impact, the damage can usually be repaired quite easily by following some simple repair procedures as described here.

### **Cleaning and Stain Removal**

General cleaning of the kayaks exterior and interior can be done with dish soap and water. Although not necessary, a wax such as Maguires can be applied to add luster and help maintain the appearance. For stubborn stains or imbedded marks use isopropyl alcohol or Novus # 2. **Never use strong solvents such as acetone or lacquer thinner** as these will damage the surface of the kayak and will void the warranty.

### **Scratches and Abrasions**

Most scratches and abrasions can be removed from the deck or hull surface using polishing compounds such as the Novus brand of plastic polishes sold by Delta Kayaks or plastic fabrication shops. Most automotive and marine polishes such as Maguires will also do the job. For deeper polishing, start with Novus # 3 and finish with Novus # 2.

To remove major scratches or abrasions the use of wet sandpaper may be required. Depending on the depth of the scratch it may be necessary to start with 250 to 300 grit wet sanding paper progressing to 400 and finally 600 grit. Be sure to keep the sand paper wet and rinse the area frequently with clean water. Final finishing is accomplished using polishing compound as described above. Be careful not to over sand the area through the acrylic coating. Although this is not a structural concern, it may show as a dull spot on the surface.

Deep gouges can be filled with acrylic repair putty sold through Delta Kayaks or spa and hot tub suppliers. Methacrylate adhesive can also be used as filler. After hardening, the filler should be wet sanded to a smooth finish. The area can be painted with enamel, urethane or acrylic spray paint such as Krylon. This works especially well on the hull as it is easier to match being white.

## Crack Repair

Cracks in the hull or deck can occur if the kayak has received major impact in a vulnerable area where the material cannot flex or yield. Repairs are not difficult and can be made with excellent results. Repairs should be made from the inside of the boat whenever possible. Use a 2 part methacrylate adhesive such as Devcon or ( Permatex in Canada ) **Plastic Welder** for repair work. There are many other brands available, just make sure the ingredients say methacrylate. It can be purchased from most hardware or industrial supply stores in a syringe style dispenser. Mix and use as per directions.

Examine the damaged area carefully. Before gluing, make sure the edges of the crack are aligned evenly and free of burrs. Masking tape can be used to help hold and align the damaged area if necessary. Prepare a piece of fibreglass cloth or tape to extend at least one inch beyond the damaged area. Mix enough methacrylate glue to cover the area and saturate the cloth patch. Try to get some adhesive on the edges of the crack and fill any voids if possible. Coat the area with a good amount of adhesive then apply and saturate the cloth and work out any trapped air with a putty knife or finger. A second layer of adhesive can be applied if there are large voids or any pieces of the plastic missing. Before hardening, clean the excess glue from the outside surfaces with alcohol. If desired, the exterior of the damaged area can be carefully filled, sanded and then painted to improve the cosmetic appearance as described for scratches and abrasions.

## Leaks

If a leak has developed it is important to isolate the location. The most common place for a leak to occur is around a bulkhead. Add some water to the suspect compartment ( front, rear or cockpit ) and tip the boat until the leak is found. Methacrylate adhesive or urethane marine sealant can be used to seal the leak.

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