

KAYAK OWNERS MANUAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS



1. Kayak Safety
2. Fitting Into Your Kayak (Foot Rests, Backrest & Seat , Beverage Holder)
3. Storage Compartment
4. Carrying Your Kayak
5. Storage, Maintenance, & Repair

1. KAYAK SAFETY

Otter Outdoors Owner's Manual

Safety must be the foremost consideration in any water sport activity. A boat owner is obligated to understand that the risk involved in paddle sports can never be eliminated. Appropriate equipment, including clothing suitable for the conditions, and wearing a life jacket is imperative to safe paddling.



At the novice stage, a kayaker can be particularly vulnerable to adverse weather, and water conditions. Kayaks, because of their limited speed, can be especially sensitive to wind, waves, and currents. In many regions, cold water is the greatest danger to the kayaker. Cold water is very debilitating and will quickly cause you to lose the strength needed to re-enter your kayak. We strongly encourage you to always paddle with at least one other person so that there is someone available to assist in the event of a capsized.

The user of any Cool Otter Kayak is personally responsible for his/her own safety and assumes all risks of and responsibility for any injury or death which might occur while using an Cool Otter Kayak.

2. FITTING INTO YOUR KAYAK

Otter Outdoors Owner's Manual

One of the most important considerations in using your Cool Otter Kayak is the way it feels to you – specifically, how comfortably you fit into it, how easy it is for you to get in and out of it. By knowing and understanding your kayak and its different parts, you will be able to use it more efficiently, and your kayaking experience will be more rewarding.



Foot Rests – The balls of your feet should press evenly against the footrests with your knees slightly bent. You should not be seated so tightly that you cannot relax your legs.

Backrest & Seat – For back support, the backrest can be adjusted to your back size with the web straps which run through the seat back. It is best to adjust your backrest and seat before setting out to paddle. When you are sitting properly, you will have support on the balls of your feet as they rest on the foot pedals.

Beverage Holder – The beverage holder is conveniently located between your legs as you paddle. A 12 ounce can, and a thin can cooler fit perfectly in the holder. We do not recommend paddling with hot beverages as this can lead to unexpected spills and burns.

3. STORAGE COMPARTMENT

Otter Outdoors Owner's Manual

The water tight storage compartment is equipped with a removable custom contoured cover and bungee straps. Simply unhook the bungee straps to access the compartment. The contoured cover is designed to hold a small cooler, securable with the bungee straps.



4. CARRYING YOUR KAYAK

Otter Outdoors Owner's Manual

If you are going to carry the kayak by yourself, be careful not to lift with your back. Turn the kayak hull toward you and against one thigh, while gripping the molded-in finger grips with both hands. You can also drag the kayak across grass or sand while gripping one of the molded-in handles on the front or back of the kayak.



Two people may carry the kayak by simply gripping a molded-in handle on each end.

5. TRANSPORTATION & LOADING

Otter Outdoors Owner's Manual

Improper transportation of your kayak can easily cause damage. A quality roof rack with specialized kayak carriers, is a small price to pay for protecting your boat and vehicle.



Specialized straps are recommended as a positive securing system (Do not use bungee cords to fasten your boat to your roof rack!)

Cool Otter Kayaks can also be easily transported in a truck box. Up to 4 kayaks (loaded sideways) can be transported with this method, but again they must be secured with a positive strapping system.

6. STORAGE, MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

Otter Outdoors Owner's Manual

Storage - Cool Otter Kayaks are made from 100% polyethylene plastic.

This material is strong, rigid, and highly impact resistant, but due to the nature of the plastic in general, it is important that you take steps to store the boat properly. It is always best to store your kayak indoors, out of direct sunlight and protected from inclement weather. Preferably, you should stand your boat on end or hang it suspending the hull with slings (hanging your kayak by the molded-in handles increases the likelihood that your kayak will experience warpage). You can also store your boat on the floor, upside down, but only as a last resort.



Maintenance – Clean polyethylene with mild detergent and water. Use a plastic protectant to guard against UV rays and to help your boat shine.



Hull Distortion – Improper storage or transportation of a plastic boat can potentially distort the shape of the hull on your boat. If your kayak does become the victim of slight distortion, correction is a simple process. Brief exposure to the heat of the sun is often all it takes to restore the hull to its original shape. If that doesn't work, the hull can usually be restored by applying heat to the outside of the boat with a hair dryer or other low-heat source such as a 75-watt light bulb.



When the hull is pliable enough, it can be pushed back in shape by hand. Be careful not to Overheat the hull as you might get burned or damage the hull. A weight can be placed inside the boat against the warped area to help maintain the shape of the hull as it cools. Although cooling normally occurs quickly, we recommend that you allow up to 24 hours to ensure that the process is completed.

Scratches - A kayak this is used in normal conditions will receive scratches, especially the bottom of the hull. Scratches do not alter the boat's structural integrity or navigational capabilities and should be of no concern.



Repair options & procedures – Although it is unlikely that your Cool Otter Kayak will need repair during its lifetime, it is possible that a hull crack or puncture might occur due to extreme impact or contact with a sharp object. If this happens, first contact Otter Outdoors, or your Otter Dealer to determine if the damage falls under the boat's warranty. We will need the identification number of your kayak (located on the rear right, outside edge, and/or inside the storage compartment), and a description of the incident during which the damage occurred. All of this information will help us to determine the best course of action.



As an owner of a boat made from plastic, one repair option which may be available to you is plastic welding. Polyethylene is recyclable and repairable, unlike many other plastics. Incidents necessitating welding happen to less than 1% of Cool Otter Kayaks, but if for some reason you should get a crack or hole in your boat, call Otter Outdoors and we will provide you with the information necessary to return your boat to peak condition.



Otter Outdoors / 411 West Congress St. / Maple Lake, MN 55358 /
Toll Free 1-877-466-8837 / www.otteroutdoors.com