



ABS Canoe Maintenance

Hull Maintenance

Although your canoe's hull is structurally maintenance free, here are a few suggestions for maintaining your canoe's attractive appearance.

1. After each use, clean the canoe's interior & exterior. Use a mild soap (Ivory) & water solution or a boat wash product. Use a soft bristle brush to clean all dirt & mud. For stubborn stains on the interior gel, use Vim with Bleach.
2. At the start of the canoeing season, after cleaning the canoe, apply a good quality marine wax with UV protection and buff. (3M Formula 303) This brightens the colour and reduces the visibility of surface scratches. It might even make your canoe faster.
3. For hard to remove stains, use a cloth with a little Polyclens or Acetone. For your safety, use rubber gloves when working with these products.
4. This is an excellent time to inspect your canoe for damage. Unless the outer Vinyl is broken and the inner ABS Strata exposed, there is nothing to worry about. Surface scratches are a normal part of the paddling experience and are simply cosmetic blemishes. If the inner layer is exposed use a thin layer of Marine Epoxy to restore protection & paint the area with Acrylic Enamel paint. If you think there is a problem and uncertain what to do, please contact Swift for advice.

Storage

It is best to store your canoe so its weight is resting entirely on the gunwales. This may mean resting it on a pair of saw horses or suspending it from the ceiling in a sling, with lengths of wood supporting the gunwales.

Storing your canoe indoors is ideal, especially those with wood gunwales. If stored outdoors, the canoe must be off the ground and protected from large accumulations of snow or ice, which will damage the hull. Do not cover the canoe with tarps or plastic as this may cause discoloration or unwanted moisture damage. Overhangs, porches or open sheds work well to protect your canoe's hull from the sun's damaging UV rays, which will eventually cause the colour to fade. Important Notice for ABS Canoes with Wood Gunwales. Both Royalex & wood expand and contract with extreme temperature changes, but at different rates. In winter, as the temperature reaches ~-20 degrees C, stress cracks may appear in the wood gunwales or in the hull around the gunnel screws. To avoid this problem, completely remove the first 4-6 screws both from the inwale & outwale at both ends of your canoe. Then lift the pair of gunnels at each end & wedge a piece of wood between the gunwale with the deck & the top of the Royalex or Royalite hull. Then loosen all other inwale screws 3 complete turns. In the spring, simply reverse the procedure by installing & tightening all screws. If splitting does occur, this can be repaired, so don't worry.

Maintaining The Canoe's Wood Trim

All wood parts require occasional maintenance 2-3 times during the paddling season. The more you use your canoe; the more care should be taken with your wood trim.

First, lightly sand the wood with 120 or 220 grit sandpaper to get rid of any minor nicks or marks. Your wood has been treated at the factory with Behr's Exterior Tung Oil. For maintenance of the wood, you can use any good quality exterior grade Teak or Tung oil. Use a 1" foam brush to apply a light coat of the oil on all wood surfaces. Start on the underside of the gunwales. Let the oil soak into the wood for 5-10 minutes, then wipe off the excess.

All interior wood parts must also be treated with this oil, even the wood under the gunwales. The wood under the edges of the gunwales requires special attention, since moisture is trapped here, causing the wood to eventually rot and disintegrate. Having your portage yoke collapse in the middle of a long portage is not a pleasant experience. To avoid this unpleasant surprise, a little regular care will ensure many years of trouble free enjoyment, as your wood trim remains strong and beautiful.

Also, on an annual basis, remember to check the tightness of all bolts and hard-ware to ensure everything is aligned and secure.

Swift Canoe & Kayak

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