SeaBird
Designs
of Norway
OWNERS MANUAL

Thank you for choosing SeaBird Designs kayak. As a part of the SeaBird Designs kayak owners' family you are now entering the world of paddling wonders. This owner's manual is designed to prepare you for this adventurous path and help you navigate it safely.

Len Ystmark

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ABOUT US

SeaBird Designs was founded in 2006 in Norway and is one of the fastest growing kayak manufacturers in Europe. We started out in Norway and today we have 80 dealers in over 30 different countries around the world. SeaBird Designs has been the top-selling kayak brand in Norway for the past six years. SeaBird Designs started with production of composite and polyethylene kayaks in 2006. Currently we offer twenty five composite kayak models in the following styles: Touring, Greenland, British, Fitness and Surfski. We also have eight different models of polyethylene kayaks, from sea kayaks to recreational models, and special kayaks for fishing. Our goal is to offer top quality kayaks at an affordable price, backed by our already renowned customer support.

THE THREE KEY TENETS OF OUR BUSINESS ARE:

INNOVATION – to provide our customers with innovative technologies, new models and new designs on a regular basis.

QUALITY – we are dedicated to continuous improvement in the quality of every kayak we make and in every activity we perform.

VALUE FOR MONEY - our business philosophy is to offer our customers real value for money. We are constantly looking for ways to minimize the customer's costs and maximize the product's quality.

ABOUT THE MANUAL

We are sure that you know that kayaking is a fun, enjoyable and very safe sport however, we want to make you fully aware of all the possible safety and maintenance information you may need in order to get the most out of your kayaking experience. Most of the information is logical and should make sense to you but it is important that we point it all out in any case as you forget something or perhaps just did not realise how important it is. We hope that you have many years of enjoyment, adventures and safe paddling ahead of you with your new SeaBird Designs kayak!

SAFETY

Kayaking is a fun and enjoyable activity which can be practiced by all people regardless of age or gender. However one must realize that safety precautions related to paddling must be taken seriously and you should be fully aware of different situations that may occur during your stay on the water. The information in this manual is intended only as a guide to get you started. We strongly encourage you to take the time to learn the basic skills and understand the fundamentals of good seamanship and we recommend that you take a course and read as much as possible about the sport.

It is vital to understand that water and weather conditions may change rapidly in nature and it is impossible to control all the risks that you may encounter. For that reason you must be prepared to perform self-rescue, take shelter, alter your plans if necessary, and willing to accept some of the risks that nature presents.

To keep you safe, using the correct equipment is crucial. Use of the personal floatation device (lifejacket) is essential for every paddler and we also recommend having a patong set in all kayaks to make self-rescue easier and safer.

The user of this product acknowledges both an understanding and an assumption of the risks involved in paddlesports. If you have any questions about this or any of our products, please do not hesitate to contact us.

STORAGE

It is important that you take steps to store your kayak properly. If possible, always store your kayak indoors or out of direct sunlight and protected from inclement weather. Sunlight can cause fading and warping of the hull and long-term exposure shorten the life of your kayak. Preferably, you should stand your boat on end or hang it suspending the hull with slings. You can also store your boat on the floor, upside down or on its side, but only as a last resort.

TRANSPORT

One of the main causes of damage to kayaks is improper transportation. Kayaks that fall from roof racks during the travel are likely to be destroyed and may cause severe damage to surrounding people or other vehicles. It is an absolute must to make sure your kayak is fastened securely on the roof rack or on the trailer. The most suitable way to transport your kayak is either on its side or with its top deck down on your roof rack - the sides are the hardest part of your kayak. Never transport your polyethylene kayak with the bottom touching your roof rack (in the upright position) – this will warp your hull, especially in the hot sun. If you transport your boat upside down on your racks try to position the racks just forward and aft of the cockpit.

When tying down your kayak, never use the handles to secure it - carrying handles are for that purpose only and are not tie down points. You must use proper straps or rope around the hull.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

CLEANING

To prolong the life of your kayak remember to wash off the sand, salt and other dirt after every use. This is especially important for the operation of your foot pedals, rudder and hatch seals. You may clean your kayak with fresh water or with a mild soapy solution. If your kayak has a gel-coat finish, then wash it with a very mild detergent to avoid removing any wax finish. A good quality marine wax is ideal for protecting the deck and hull from the harsh effects of the sun. Polyethylene kayaks do not need to be waxed, but love to be clean. There are various UV protectants that can be purchased from your dealer.

SCRATCHES

Accept the fact that no matter how careful you are, in normal conditions your kayak will receive scratches, especially on the bottom of the hull. Scratches do not alter the boat's structural integrity or navigational capabilities and should be of no concern – especially on polyethylene kayaks. If you have a composite kayak with a gel coat finish and you damage the gel coat to the point where you can see the fiberglass under the gel, a repair is recommended.

HOW TO REPAIR LEAKS IN YOUR KAYAK

Unless your kayak has a crack, leaks primarily occur in the following areas: seams, ends, hatch rims, bulkheads, skeg housings or fittings. Over time, leaks can develop from various sorts of stresses including freezing and thawing. Most leaks are easy to fix, if you can find them. Since a leak rarely means a structural problem, simple sealants are quite adequate for stopping them. Once you have identified a leak, press a very small amount of sealant into the area with your finger or a rag. Be sure to wipe off the excess; you just want to seal the cavity where water is entering. It is preferable to do the sealing on the inside if you can reach the problem area. Otherwise apply the seal to the outside or both sides.

GEL COAT REPAIR

Scratches or chips in the hull of a composite kayak can be easily repaired. Gel coats are available through most marine supply retailers. Remove loose gel coat and bevel the edges of the scratches with a utility knife. Sand the area in and around scratch using 220 grit sandpaper until the shine is removed. Clean the area with acetone or lacquer thinner. (Acetone is highly flammable and should be handled with care). Place enough gel on a piece of cardboard and add the hardener at 4 to 5 drops per tablespoon of gel. Mix thoroughly for about one minute using a stir stick. (The hardener is a skin irritant and extremely dangerous if it comes in contact with your eyes). Apply the mixture immediately and spread it into the repair area leaving it slightly raised above the surface. Remove any excess outside of the repair area with a knife or acetone. Let it dry for 2 to 4 hours to allow for full shrinkage. Wet sand the repair with P320 or P400 sandpaper backed with a block of wood until the repair is almost level with the surrounding area. Apply water liberally and finish the area with P600 sandpaper. Avoid sanding the surrounding area until you are ready to use P600 sandpaper. Polish the area with a mild rubbing compound. You can use an electric polishing machine for a higher gloss. For the final gloss, use a quality automotive or marine wax. Color fading may make a perfect match difficult. If it is necessary to repair a large area of gel coat, you may want to contact your dealer about the best way to proceed with boat repairs. If your boat receives structural damage take it to a professional to do the repair or to get advice on specific damage.

HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR SURFSKI

To remove any salt, sand or dirt after use, wash your kayak with fresh water - or for a more thorough cleaning use soap or mild detergent. It is also important to rinse the pedals, rudder and drain plug to clear any dirt.

If you protect your kayak from harmful UV rays, it will stay looking good even after many years of usage.

Take extra care of your Pro and Pro Ultra lay-up surfski. There are many products you can use for this. Simply grease/spray 303 Protectant, UV Tech like you would do on your skis, 2-3 times a year.

Do not transport or store your surfski directly on hard metal racks! Suitably shaped saddles or padding is needed to eliminate stress caused by transporting or storing your surfski.

Store your surfski indoors, in a garage or in other storage area.

If you wish to store it outside, use a dry transport bag or tarpaulin.

Do not store your surfski directly in the sunlight.

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR STORAGE:

1. Place the racks or straps under the surfski for support (about 1/3 in from the bow and stern);
2. Make sure your surfski is clean and completely dry, inside and out (especially in cold climates);
3. Store your surfski in a trunk of a transport vehicle or under a cover;
4. Feel free to use UV protection for long term storage.

HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR FITNESS KAYAK

To remove any salt, sand or dirt after use, wash your kayak with fresh water - or for a more thorough cleaning use soap or mild detergent. It is also important to rinse the pedals and the rudder to clear any dirt.

If you protect your kayak from harmful UV rays, it will stay looking good even after many years of usage.

Take extra care of your Pro and Pro Ultra lay-up kayak. There are many products you can use for this. Simply grease/spray 303 Protectant, UV Tech like you would do on your skis, 2-3 times a year.

Do not transport or store your kayak directly on hard metal racks! Suitably shaped saddles or padding is needed to eliminate stress caused by transporting or storing your kayak.

Store your fitness kayak indoors, in a garage or in other storage area. If you wish to store it outside, use a dry transport bag or tarpaulin. Do not store your kayak directly in the sunlight.

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR STORAGE:

1. Place the racks or straps under your kayak for support (about 1/3 in from the bow and stern);
2. Make sure your kayak is clean and completely dry, inside and out (especially in cold climates);
3. Save kayak in a trunk or under a cover;
4. Feel free to use UV protection for long term storage.

WARRANTY

SeaBird Designs warrants all kayaks to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of five years from the date of purchase. This warranty applies to the original owner for purchases made directly from SeaBird Designs or an authorized SeaBird Designs dealer. Your original invoice is your proof of purchase. During the warranty period all kayaks found to have defects will be repaired or replaced at place of purchase free of charge, within a reasonable period of time. This warranty does not include damage to the products resulting from abuse, misuse, negligence and towing, accidental or normal wear and tear. Warranty does not apply to commercial use, rentals, outfitters, demonstration boats.

SeaBird Designs reserves the right to determine whether the terms of the warranty have been properly complied with.

HOW TO MAKE A WARRANTY CLAIM:

If a defect in materials or workmanship occurs, please notify the dealer who sold the kayak to you or SeaBird Designs promptly. You will be required to provide the following information:

Your name . . . . . .

Your address . . . . . .

Your telephone number. . . . . .

A description of the problem . . . . . .
. . . . . .

Why do you feel that it is a warranty problem . . . . . .
. . . . . .

Kayak serial number . . . . . .

Location of purchase . . . . . .

Date of purchase . . . . . .

Proof of purchase . . . . . .

CONTACT US

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Talk about your experience with SeaBird Designs kayaks and follow the latest news, product announcements, competitions, event and demo listings at the SeaBird Designs Social Networks:
http://www.facebook.com/seabirdkayaks
http://www.youtube.com/user/seabirddesigns
http://twitter.com/#!/seabirddesigns