

ULTIMATE 14.5 OWNER'S MANUAL

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- Boat Cover
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- Personal Gear

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ULTIMATE 14.5

Hull Materials

Polyethylene

Rotationally molded boats are engineered to have sturdy hulls with maximum impact and abrasion resistance. Polyethylene can endure extended exposure to both ultraviolet light and temperature variation, enabling boats to be stored outdoors.

Elite Composite® Kayaks

Beautiful and sleek, Native Watercraft *elite Composite* boats are crafted with state-of-the-art materials and a unique manufacturing process which utilizes *vacuum bagging* techniques to eliminate all unnecessary non-structural weight. They are light, stiff and able to accommodate the weight of paddlers and recommended gear loads.

Features

Tunnel Hull (patented)

This signature tunnel hull is extraordinarily stable for being a single hull. It creates a boat-wide platform that minimizes rocking when you redistribute weight, and allows you to stand for long periods for scouting, poling or sight fishing, with confidence.

With your feet positioned in a unique, lower position relative to your hips (in most kayaks, your toes are at the same level as your hips), you experience the most comfortable seating position available in today's kayaks.

First Class Seating™ (patent pending)

This unique seating system supports you for hours of paddling, fishing, or simply soaking up the sun. The seat pan shape matches that of the Tunnel Hull, which allows it to slide forward and back easily, and provides extra rigidity for the hull.

Despite its structural integrity and adjustability it weighs only seven pounds. The seat can be removed quickly, making the boat lighter and loading so much easier than with other kayaks. Given the comfort and adjustability of its suspended seat design, it may become your favorite beach or campground chair!

Materials

~The anodized aluminum seat back reclines and the seat bottom can be raised to provide extra under-thigh support. The slightly raised position of the seat allows you to get a good look at where you're paddling, and the seat's base serves as a tray to store items that you want to access quickly.

~ 3-D Mesh Spacer Fabric

This unique mesh breathes and drains easily, so you don't have to sit in a water puddle or on a soggy cushion. It is 100% recyclable and produced using an environmentally-friendly process. Ozone-depleting cfc's (chlorofluorocarbons) that are generally used in foam manufacturing have been eliminated from the process.

~Textilene® Solar Screen Fabric

The fabric used to construct First Class Seats™ will withstand five years of daily sun exposure before it begins to break down. The light colored fabric stays much cooler than traditional black seats or compression molded seats.

Adapt-a-Track™ Outfitting

Your boat is outfitted with a unique channel that is installed around the exterior of the hull. This channel can be utilized to attach a wide variety of accessories, via molded clips of different lengths that snap in, easily. Adapt-a-Track accessories include spray skirts, paddle or pole holders, and stripping baskets.

To install an Adapt-a-Track clip-on accessory:

1. Place the accessory at the position on the boat where it will serve its desired function.
2. Position the accessory's clip flush against the boat hull, below the Adapt-a-Track molded channel.
3. Hold the bottom of the clip with your fingers and pull up until you hear and feel the clip lock into the channel.

To install an Adapt-a-Track accessory with a long (greater than 3") clip-on element:

1. Slide one end of the Adapt-a-Track clip molding onto the channel.
2. Thread the accessory onto the boat by sliding the rest of the clip-on element into the desired position.

OR

1. Pull up on a short section of the accessory's track to engage it. Repeat this, one short section at a time, along the accessory item until it is completely connected.

Easy Foot™ Footbrace System

The Easy Foot™ Footbrace System makes it easy to adjust your foot pad position while seated. The foot pads are sized to specifically suit your boat.

To adjust an Easy Foot footbrace:

1. Unweight the pads.
2. Pull or push the adjustment bar until the footpad is in the desired position.
3. When you feel the footpad click into place on the track, let go of the adjustment bar.

Comfort and Convenience

- Ergonomically-designed **carry handles** are attached to the front and rear ends of your kayak to allow you to carry your end with ease, even when the boat is loaded. They can be fasted with gear storage bungee to stay out of the way (particularly great when you're worried about stray fly fishing lines).
- **Padded arm rests** make paddling, angling, and relaxing easier on your elbows.
- **Cup holders** provide convenient access to your drinks which help you ward off dehydration.
- **Utility trays** hold small items that need temporary storage.
- Secure your bags or crates in the **rear storage area** of the Ultimate 14.5 Tandem by hooking the rear bungee and the tether from the rear fixed thwart.
- For **anglers**, a slight depression in the profile of boat thwarts provides convenient temporary parking spaces for your rod when you need to rest it "somewhere," for a moment.

Rudder (optional)

The rudder comes secured to the boat with a bungee. When you release this your rudder will be available and your footbraces will be freed to direct the rudder position.

To lower the rudder:

1. Look for the rope on the deck that is used to raise and lower the rudder. It features two barrel knots.
2. Grab the barrel knot that is farthest aft (toward the stern) and pull it forward.
3. Adjust your footbraces so that your knees are comfortably bent and you can exert a reasonable amount of force on the footbraces before your knees are completely straightened / extended.
4. You should now be able to steer to the right or left by applying pressure on the right or left footbrace, respectively.

To retract the rudder:

1. Check to be sure the rudder is centered behind the boat by positioning both your footbraces at the same distance from you.
2. Look again to the rope on the deck that features two barrel knots. Choose the knot that is farthest aft, and pull it forward. Your rudder should exit the water easily and land in the 'vee' notch of the rudder holder.
3. When you're ready to load up your boat, re-secure the rudder with the bungee as it was when you started out.

Drain Plug

Drain plugs installed in the stern end of the boat allow you to empty water easily and quickly. To empty water from your boat using the drain plug, unscrew the plug and pull it away from the boat. Turn the kayak so that the cockpit is facing the ground, and lift the bow up to allow the water to exit the boat. When you've emptied the boat, don't forget to screw the drain plug back in!

USING YOUR ULTIMATE 14.5

Initial Set Up:

Your Ultimate 14.5 has arrived from the factory in either a solo (for a single paddler) or a tandem (for two paddlers) configuration. Each First Class Seat™ is shipped unattached to the boat, so you will need to install the seats before paddling.

1. Slide the seat toward the stern, making sure the seat pan fits under the side clips, until the back of the seat pan is approximately six inches in front of the thwart.
2. Hook the rear attachment bungee to the seat back tension bungee.
3. Adjust the seat for your comfort.
 - Seat Position -- Adjust the seat retainer straps (one on each side) so that the seat does not slide forward or backward unexpectedly.
 - Seat Back -- For a more *erect* position, tighten the side straps by pulling the free strap ends toward the front of the boat. For a more relaxed position, sit up so that the side straps are supporting you, but not stretched tight. Gently pull the rounded end of each strap buckle up and away from the strap. The strap will lengthen and loosen until you've found your desired position.
 - Seat Bottom -- From your seated position, raise your thighs by drawing your feet in and leaning back a bit. With one hand, lift the front edge of the seat up to take the weight off the adjustment bar underneath you. With your other hand, reposition the adjustment bar in one of its three positions.

**If you are going to paddle the boat solo, you can slide the seat forward slightly to trim the boat a bit.

Removing and Re-installing the Seat:

1. Remove the seat:
 - a. unbuckle the side straps
 - b. turn the seat ninety (90) degrees one way or the other
 - c. slide it forward until the seat pan releases from its clips
 - d. lift out
2. Re-install a First Class Seat™:
 - a. lower the seat down into the boat well
 - b. with the seat back facing one side or the other, rotate the seat ninety degrees to face forward
 - c. press down on the seat bottom so that the seat pan slides below the side retaining clips
 - d. check to see if the seat pan has returned to its previous position
 - e. snap the seat retainer straps on each side
 - f. secure seat back tension bungee

Changing from Tandem to Solo Seating:

1. Remove the front seat.
2. Move the Easy Foot footbraces to the middle track.
3. Remove the 28" thwart tube and store it in a secure location.
4. Move the stern seat to the center position.
5. Install the two 24" thwart tubes into their respective locations in front of and behind the solo seat.
6. Move the cargo strap from the middle to the front position.

Changing from Solo to Tandem Seating:

1. Store the 24" solo thwart tubes in a secure location.
2. Unhook the seat retainer buckle.
3. Move the seat to the rear position, pushing down so that the seat pan slides under the side retainer clips.
4. Reinstall the front seat.
5. Move the Easy Foot footbraces from the center to the rear set of tracks.
6. Reinstall the 28" thwart tube into the boat's center position.
7. Re-attach the cargo strap to the middle seat strap.

Transporting Your Ultimate

To transport your kayak securely, we suggest that you install a rigid bar, sport rack system on the roof of your vehicle. Your boat will remain most stable when loaded upside down. If you are unlikely to encounter rain during your road trip, you can also load it with the hull down.

Caring for Your Ultimate

A **fresh water rinse** for the hull and all moving parts is all that is necessary to keep your boat clean. It is heartily recommended after paddling in salt water, especially if your boat is outfitted with a rudder system. Thoroughly rinse the rudder, rudder cables, and foot braces with fresh water to remove dirt, sand and salt.

We also recommend that you treat your First Class Seat™ fabric with a **mold retardant cleaner** (found at grocery or home improvement stores) if you use it infrequently or if it will be stored in a moist or poorly circulated.

You should periodically **lubricate** all moving parts (like the footbraces, skeg or rudder) to keep them in top working order. We recommend using 303 Lubricant, available at outdoor specialty and select home improvement retailers. For polyethylene hulls, 303 Lubricant can also be used to protect the luster of the boat's surface.

Polyethylene

Polyethylene is a tough, resilient material which can withstand a reasonable amount of impact and usage over rough surfaces. However, over time and with continued use, abrasions can reduce the hull's ability to glide smoothly through the water. You can minimize raised texture on the hull by scrapping the polyethylene ridges off with a sharp knife or buffing them out with sand paper. Also, please remember that the hull is tough, not indestructible, but minor damages may be repairable. Contact your local Native Watercraft dealer for additional information and assistance regarding polyethylene repair.

Storage Tips

The ideal environment for storing your kayak is a shaded, dry space. Never store your kayak in direct sunlight. Position it upside down with each end supported on sturdy, cushioned racks. Wood 2 x 4's covered with carpet or closed-cell foam work nicely (coverings that will either dry quickly or not absorb moisture will keep mildew away).

Polyethylene material softens somewhat when it is exposed to extremely warm conditions. If your kayak is strapped tightly to a roof rack or sitting on a storage rack during a series of hot days, it may deform. You can encourage your boat to "remember" its original shape by unstrapping it and setting it on a flat or padded surface in the sunlight but it may not completely regain its shape if it has been deformed by severely tightened straps or ropes.

Storing the boat with the seat installed also helps encourage it to keep its shape.

Basic Gear

When you paddle you should always carry safety equipment, carry appropriate personal gear, use a comfortable paddle, and wear a PFD (personal flotation device).

Paddle

The choice of a paddle is as personal as the choice of your boat. Factors to consider in selecting your paddle include blade shape, length, weight and material. Synthetic paddles are the most damage resistant. Composite models will generally be lighter and better if you'll be paddling for long periods of time. Most paddlers use paddles between 225 and 240 cm in length: you should try different lengths and types of paddles before you make a purchase, just as you would test paddle your boat.

Take-apart paddles offer the ability to change blade angle ("feather") to suit your preference, and are easy to store and transport. A spare paddle is good to have as well. It can be an inexpensive take-apart paddle that can be stowed easily on deck.

PFD – Personal Flotation Device

A comfortable and securely-fitting PFD is an absolutely essential paddling accessory that should be worn when you're in your kayak. Try your PFD on before you make a purchase, to be sure it fits comfortably. Swing your arms and rotate your torso to make sure you can move your arms freely without feeling restricted. If it does, adjust the outfitting or try another model / size.

If you will be wearing a sprayskirt or have a short torso, wear your pfd while sitting in a boat: it should not ride up more than an inch or two, and someone should be able to pick you up by its shoulders without it lifting up over your head.

Sprayskirt

A sprayskirt is handy to ward off small, infrequent waves or to hide your legs from the merciless sun. It is essential when you want to venture from shore, or when there is even a remote chance that you'll encounter rough conditions.

Test your sprayskirt ashore prior to using them afloat. It should go on fairly easily, and release easily. Your Ultimate Bow, Stern and Center Skirts attach to the boat via the Adapt-a-Trak™ system. You can open up the skirt, stand up and exit the boat in a snap through your Center Skirt thanks to the hook and loop closure.

Boat Cover

A cockpit cover may become your favorite "off water" accessory. Its waterproof fabric attaches around the cockpit rim to keep the inside of the kayak dry, clean and free of critters. In addition, if you transport your kayak on a trailer or roof

rack with the cockpit up, using a cockpit cover will allow you to carry items in the boat while you transport it, and will keep rain out of the boat.

Safety Equipment

You should consider carrying a bilge pump to rid the interior of standing water that can destabilize your ride. United States Coast Guard regulations require an audible signal device (horn or whistle) on all watercraft.

Note: Safety equipment is not worth much unless you know how to use it. We recommend that you obtain qualified instruction and practice under controlled, comfortable conditions.

Personal Gear

The following is a list of items that you should keep with you on every trip in a dry storage bag or case:

- drinking water
- sunscreen
- a brimmed hat and sunglasses
- insect repellent
- compass
- waterproof flashlight
- matches or a lighter
- a first aid kit

The following should also be considered:

- A dry set of clothes, if the weather will not dry you quickly after a capsized
- Weather radio
- Global positioning device (GPS)
- Cell phone
- Navigation charts
- Repair kit
 - o Duct tape
 - o Screwdriver
 - o Vise grips
 - o Spare cord
 - o Knife

If you have additional questions about your new product from Native Watercraft or would like to learn about any of our suggested accessories, please ask your dealer. They will be happy to help you get to your next day on the water safely, and soon!

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www.nativewatercraft.com