

COMPASS OWNER'S MANUAL

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR COMPASS

Hull Materials

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

First Class Seating™ (patent pending)

This unique seating system supports you for hours of paddling, fishing, or simply soaking up the sun. You can install or adjust your seat to 'trim' the boat (achieve a horizontal water line) when you carry heavy gear or are joined by your dog for a day of paddling.

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.

~HiFlow™ 3-D Mesh (patent pending for watercraft)

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.

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 bungees to stay out of the way (particularly great when you're worried about stray fly fishing lines).

USING YOUR COMPASS

Initial Set Up:

1. Adjust the seat for your comfort.
 - o Seat Position -- Adjust the seat retainer straps (one on each side) so that the seat does not slide forward or backward unexpectedly.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.

Transporting Your Compass

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 Compass

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. Thoroughly rinse the foot braces with fresh water to remove dirt, sand and salt.

We also recommend that you treat your First Class Seats™ 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 environment or one with poor air circulation.

You should periodically **lubricate** all moving parts (like the footbraces) to keep them in top working order. We recommend using 303 Lubricant, available at outdoor specialty and select home improvement retailers.

Standard car wax will protect your Elite Composite kayak's exterior from the long term effects of water, wind and mild abrasion. You can also apply a wood oil to the gunwhales periodically to maintain their fine finish and integrity.

If you incur damage that compromises the boat such that it requires a repair, contact your local Native Watercraft dealer for assistance.

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).

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.

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.

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!

Native Watercraft

www.nativewatercraft.com