



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. (NU FINISH) 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 gel coat is broken and the inner cloth exposed, there is nothing to worry about. Surface scratches are a normal part of the paddling experience and are simply cosmetic blemishes. However, if you think there is a problem, contact Swift for advice. If your hull has faded or is covered with scratches, we can restore the beauty to your hull.

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. When storing your canoe for long periods, pop your float tank plug to allow for ongoing pressure equalization in the tanks.

Float Tank Plugs

All Swift canoes, with floatation tanks, come with either a (A) pressure equalizing plug in each tank or a (B) manual plug in each tank. When the air in the float tank expands, the plug will automatically pop out to allow for pressure equalization. Also, during prolonged cold periods the external surface of the tank will contract, requiring you to pop the plug yourself. Remember to firmly reinsert this plug to avoid water entering the float tank. (B) For manual float tank plugs, be sure to open the plug when the canoe is not in the water to allow for expansion / contraction. Closing the plugs while the canoe is in transit on your vehicle will reduce the risk of loss of the plug.

Maintaining The Canoe's Wood Trim & Interior

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, remember to check the tightness of all bolts and hardware to ensure every-thing is aligned and secure.

Swift Canoe & Kayak

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