



Swift Canoe & Kayak

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# PACK BOAT OWNERS MANUAL



Swift Canoe & Kayak

# CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PURCHASE OF YOUR NEW SWIFT PACK BOAT!

*We are confident that it will bring you many years of paddling pleasure. Swift strives to achieve perfection in everything we do, starting with building your boat. During the manufacturing process, your boat has been inspected twice for quality. Once by the team that built it, and again in our final inspection process. Our stringent quality control ensures that every boat we build meets our exacting standards for quality and workmanship before leaving our factory and heading for your first adventure together.*

*Happy Paddling!*



If you are new to paddling, or even if you just want to brush up on your paddling skills, you may want to consider taking a lesson. Please contact the Swift dealer where you purchased your boat for information about instruction in your area. Many communities have paddling groups where like minded folks paddle together and learn from one another - ask your dealer about groups near you!

You will also find that there are many great books, magazines and You Tube videos that can provide paddling tips on everything from improving your paddling strokes, to packing for both long and short trips, rescues, safety, paddling routes and more.

Of course, the more time you spend paddling, the more comfortable you will be in your boat. As you get started, try taking small trips that last a few hours, then work up to day trips, and then eventually overnight trips if you are feeling adventurous.

Paddling is one of the very best ways to get out and enjoy the outdoors and we are confident that your new canoe will bring you many years of pleasure and adventure.

## SWIFT WARRANTY

Swift boats are warrantied against defects in materials and workmanship to the original owner for the usable life of the hull and trim as indicated by care and wear. Swift will repair or replace the boat or it's components at their option after inspection by factory technicians. The customer is responsible for transportation costs to and from our factory. Shipping costs are at the discretion of the manufacturer and based on location and availability.

This warranty does not include damage due to normal wear, or damage resulting from abuse, misuse, alteration or improper repair by a third party.

Your original receipt is required for all warranty claims.

## PADDLING SAFETY

By law, and for your own safety you will, at minimum, require the following items for safety when paddling your Canoe. If you were to be stopped paddling without the necessary safety items you risk fines, so always be prepared!

**1. Properly fitting life jacket (PFD) is required on board, and should be worn at all times when on the water.**

Regardless of how much paddling experience you have, accidents can happen. Get into the habit of wearing your PFD. It can't save your life if you are not wearing it.

**2. A personal signaling device, such as a whistle or horn.**

A pealess whistle, such as a Fox 40 works best and will work when you most need it. Fasten it to your PFD for easy access and to ensure you always have it with you!

**3. A bailing device is required in your canoe.**

There are lots of great bailers on the market, our first choice is the Northwater 4 Bailer kit, or the Fox 40 Safety Kit. Kayak hand pumps are also very popular and allow you to move a large amount of water quite quickly.

**4. A rescue line made up of at least 15 metres of floating rope.**

Quarter inch yellow polyethylene is satisfactory, but a proper throw bag is the ideal rescue device. It is advised that you practice your rescue techniques before you head out.

**5. A waterproof flashlight**

Required for safety when paddling close to dawn or dusk.

**6. Spare paddle**

On longer trips, it is also advisable to carry a spare paddling in case yours breaks or somehow gets lost. It may seem like just one more thing to carry, but it is most valuable if you end up needing it!



## STORAGE

It is best to store your canoe so its weight rests 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 the gunwales supported by pieces of wood. We do not recommend hanging your boat by its carrying handles or any of the seats or thwarts.

**We recommend that boats be stored indoors whenever possible to protect from UV damage caused by sun.** Boats with wood gunwales, or wood outers should most definitely be stored indoors away from the elements in order to keep the trim from rotting.

If your only available storage space is outdoors, a lightweight, breathable canoe cover is recommended. Your canoe should be off the ground and protected from large accumulations of snow and ice, which could damage the hull. Do not cover the canoe with tarps or plastic, as they do not breathe and will cause moisture to accumulate which could result in discoloration or damage.

Overhangs, porches or open sheds work well to help keep your canoe away from the elements and the long term damaging effects of sunlight UV. Just be sure that over the winter months, there is no chance of snow or ice dropping from the roof, onto your boat.

## CAR TOP TRANSPORT

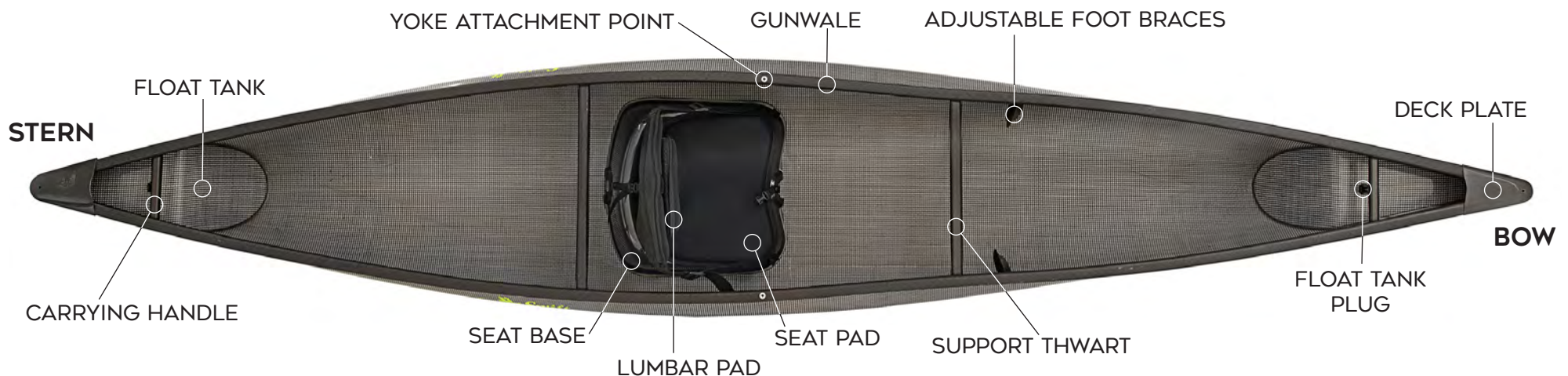
Securing your boat properly to the top of your vehicle is not as difficult a task as you might initially think. A good tie down system will prevent the boat from sliding forward or backward, or moving side to side.

Many vehicles have a roof rack system that allows for easy transport. Alternately, you can purchase a set of foam transport blocks for your vehicle. Whichever method you choose, we recommend purchasing a good set of cam buckle straps.

**We do not recommend using ratchet style straps to tie down your boat.**

If you are unsure of how to properly and safely tie down your boat, please visit your local dealer for tips and assistance.

\*These safety guidelines are for the Province of Ontario, but are subject to change. Please check to see what the requirement is in the area you will be paddling to ensure that you have everything you need to be safe on the water and avoid any fines incurred by not being prepared.



# CARING FOR YOUR PACK BOAT

## GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Although your boat's hull is structurally maintenance free, here are a few suggestions for maintaining its attractive appearance and ensuring its long life. A little bit of maintenance will go a very long way!

- 1. We recommend that you treat your boat with a UV inhibitor such as 303 Aerospace Protectant to protect the hull of your boat from the sun's harmful UV rays. It is recommended that you do this monthly while the boat is in use and following any time you wash your boat.**



At the start of the paddling season, after cleaning and protecting the boat, you might also choose to apply a good quality marine wax to the hull exterior and hand buff the surface. This brightens colour and reduces the visibility of some surface scratches.

2. When washing your boat, use a mild soap & water solution (Dawn Dish soap is a great choice) or boat wash product. Use a soft bristle scrub brush to clean the interior/exterior of all mud/dirt from the interior and any exterior water stains or pollen buildup.
3. For hard to remove stains, we find that Mr Clean Magic Erasers work miracles. For really stubborn stains, you can try a cloth with a little Polyclens or Acetone. (For your safety, use rubber gloves when working with these products)
4. From time to time, you may find that you get blobs of tree sap on your boat. We have found that hand sanitizer, or any other alcohol based product will break down the sap quite easily and allow it to be wiped away.
5. The beginning and end of the season is an excellent time to inspect your boat for loose hardware or hull damage. Unless the outer layer of the hull is broken exposing the inner fibers, there is nothing to worry about. Surface scratches are a normal part of the paddling adventure and are simply cosmetic blemishes. However, if you think there is a problem, contact Swift or your dealer for advice.

## WOOD THWARTS & HANDLES

Wood parts require occasional maintenance. First, lightly sand the wood with 120 or 220 grit sandpaper to get rid of any minor nicks or marks.

For maintenance of wood parts, we always recommend Badger Wood Oil as it is light, all natural and easy to use. If Badger Oil is not available in your area, you can use any good quality exterior grade Teak or Tung oil. Look for something that is light, and not sticky.



Use a foam brush or soft cloth to apply a light coat of the oil on wood surfaces. Let the oil soak into the wood for 5-10 minutes, then wipe off any excess if needed.



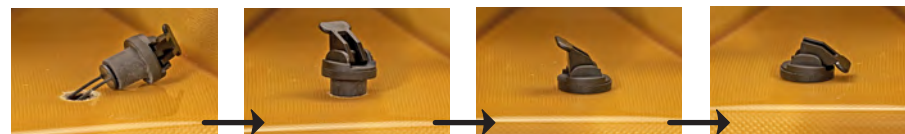
## REMOVABLE YOKE

Most Pack Boats are fitted with a screw in Removable Yoke to make portaging more comfortable. If your boat does not have a yoke, one can be ordered from our factory.

When tightening your yoke down, take care not to over tighten - it only needs to be finger tight. Over tightening may cause damage to your boat or yoke over time.

## FLOAT TANK PLUGS

All Swift Pack Boats come with a plug in each flotation tank. These plugs should be closed when using your boat to ensure water does not get inside in the event of capsize.



Be sure to open the plug when the canoe is not being used to allow for expansion/contraction. During cold periods the external surface of the tank will contract, so open the plug up to allow the air inside to properly pressurize.