

Gel-coat and TCS Repair

Gel-coat Repair - Scratches or chips in the hull of a composite kayak can be easily repaired. Gel-coat is available through your dealer or directly from us.

1. Remove loose gel and bevel the edges of the scratches with a utility knife. Sand the area in and around the 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 treated with care.)
2. Place enough gel on a piece of cardboard and add hardener at 4 to 5 drops per tablespoon of gel. Mix thoroughly for about one minute using a stir stick. (The hardener is an irritant to skin and extremely dangerous if it comes in contact with the eyes.)
3. Apply the mixture immediately and spread it into the repair leaving it slightly raised above the surface. Remove any excess outside of the repair area with a knife or acetone. Let dry for 2 to 4 hours to allow for full shrinkage. (Tip: best

results are achieved if the repair is covered with cellophane or wax paper while still wet.)

4. Wet sand the repair with #320 or #400 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 #600 sandpaper. Avoid sanding the surrounding area until you are ready to use the #600 sandpaper.
5. 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.
6. Color fade may make a perfect match difficult.
7. If it is necessary to repair a large area of gel-coat, you may want to contact your dealer as to the best way to proceed with the boat repairs.
8. If your boat receives structural damage take it to a professional to do the repair or to get advice on specific damage.

TCS (Thermoformed Composite System)

Repair - Scratches or chips in the hull of a TCS™ kayak can be easily repaired. Use Methyl Methacrylate, which is available from your dealer or directly from us.

1. Clean and sand the gouge and 1/2" of the surrounding area using a 400 grit wet/dry sandpaper. Remove any jagged edges with a knife.
2. Apply resin (Super glue, Methyl Methacrylate) so that the gouge is filled just higher than the surrounding area.
3. Using 1 or 2 mil mylar plastic or acetate (available at office supply stores), press it tightly on the gouge, starting at one end and using masking tape to keep it tight to the hull.
4. After 3 to 4 hours remove the tape and plastic. The repair will need 24 hours at room temperature to achieve full strength.
5. Finish sand and polish if desired.

If your kayak has more severe damage (a split or worse), please contact the factory at 507-454-5430 for more detailed instructions.

Polyethylene Kayak Repairs

Current Designs polyethylene models are rotationally molded from linear polyethylene. Polyethylene is ideally suited to withstand accidental bangs, scrapes, and impacts. This is one reason why polyethylene kayaks are so popular.

Care and maintenance are minimal on a polyethylene kayak but necessary to the longevity of the craft.

Store Your Kayak Carefully - Polyethylene is more prone to warpage than a composite kayak. Store and transport your craft in a manner that prevents deformation. Always use a cradled storage and transport system. If the shape of the kayak changes, it will effect how the kayak paddles.

Dents - Dents in a boat will often pop out on their own or with a little heat on a warm sunny day (or by using a hairdryer). In extreme cases, support the kayak to allow it to go back to its original shape, then fill the kayak with hot water and heat the outside of the hull with either a heat gun or a very hot hairdryer. If the warpage does not come out, then put an internal brace inside the kayak to push the dent out. Be careful not to overheat the area. If, at any point, the boat begins to melt, stop and allow the boat to cool before trying again.

Holes and Cracks - Our linear polyethylene is easily repaired by an experienced plastic welder in the unlikely event that it is actually broken. If you crack or put a hole in your kayak, then it is recommended that you see your Current Designs dealer or take the kayak to an experienced plastic welder. We have color matched polyethylene welding rods.



A dent can be removed by applying heat.