



 **MISSION**



DISTRIBUTORS OF:



CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE CHOSEN A MISSION KAYAK THAT HAS BEEN CAREFULLY DESIGNED AND CRAFTED WITH YOUR NEEDS IN MIND. YOU ARE NOW PART OF A GROWING FAMILY OF MISSION KAYAK OWNERS. VISIT US AT **WWW.MISSIONKAYAKING.COM**





GO ON A MISSION – EXPLORE NEIGHBOURHOOD STREAMS. CATCH SOME WAVES. SPEND A FEW DAYS ON THE RIVER AND CAMP IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, DISCOVER NEW OCEANS. **ENJOY THE JOURNEY AND REACH THE DESTINATION.**



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Completely and thoroughly read the SAFETY FIRST section, and all the warnings located throughout this manual. “Your dealer” as used throughout this manual, refers to the authorized Mission dealer in your area. Throughout this manual, safety related information will be identified with safety symbols.

These symbols mean: Pay close attention!



This WARNING symbol indicates a hazard which could result in personal injury.



This CAUTION symbol indicates a hazard which could result in damage to your kayak.

WARNING

Some aspects of kayaking are hazardous and involve the risk of serious injury or death. The user of equipment sold by Mission is personally responsible for obtaining proper instruction in kayaking technique, including rescue and First Aid. The user of Mission equipment assumes the risk of, and complete responsibility for, any and all damages or injury, including death, which result from the use of any Mission product. Mission strongly recommends obtaining training in appropriate kayaking and safety techniques before using any Mission product. Such instruction should be obtained from qualified instructors teaching in a reputable, organized kayaking program or school.

SAFETY FIRST

There is only one way to pursue the sport of kayaking: safely! Before you head out on the water, wear an approved PFD. If you are headed to the river, wear a proper helmet. If you are new to the sport of kayaking, take a kayaking class or ask an experienced paddler to show you the ropes. Never mix alcohol or drugs with the enjoyment of paddlesports. Learn and respect the limitations of your skills and equipment. Becoming an expert kayaker doesn't happen overnight, so allow yourself the time to learn and grow as a paddler. Don't put yourself in a situation that feels uncomfortable to you.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD)

It's essential to wear a proper fitting, approved PFD when kayaking. A PFD helps keep you afloat and offers upper body protection against obstacles both above and below the water's surface. Choose a PFD that provides a snug, yet comfortable fit. There are many PFDs designed especially for kayaking.



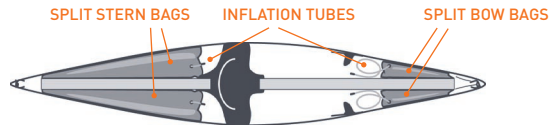
HELMET

A paddling helmet is indispensable. Choose a helmet that protects the front of the head and the temples — the most common sites of injury. A helmet should fit snugly, eliminating sideways and up and down movement. A foam liner will help absorb the force of impact with rocks or obstacles.



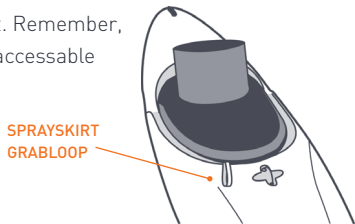
FLOTATION

For whitewater kayaks, foam walls in your kayak provide some flotation, but it's important to supplement this with inner flotation bags. By filling the spaces alongside the foam walls, flotation bags ensure your kayak will take on much less water when you wet exit. Our touring and recreational kayaks have a combination of positive end foam flotation and some models also have sealed foam bulkheads giving adequate flotation to your kayak. A kayak full of water can weigh 180 kilograms or more. Flotation bags make it much easier, and safer, to get your paddler-less boat to shore.



SPRAYSKIRT

A well designed sprayskirt is necessary for any rough water kayaking, and is a good idea under most conditions. Coated and breathable nylon sprayskirts adjust to fit different waist sizes and aren't damaged by chlorine during "pool sessions." Neoprene sprayskirts keep more water out of the cockpit, and are specifically designed and sized to fit different waist sizes and cockpits. Regardless of the type of sprayskirt you use, you want it to fit to your body and boat snugly, but not so tight that it's difficult to exit the boat. Remember, the grabloop must be accessible at all times.



THROW BAGS AND KARABINERS

Throw bags are a very important rescue tool. They're a length of floating rope loaded into a small bag so that it's easier to throw to a swimmer in a rapid. Karabiners are oval shaped links developed for rockclimbing. In emergencies, they're a quick and easy way to link ropes together, attach rope to a kayak's grabloop or security loop, or rig a makeshift pulley.



FIRST AID KIT

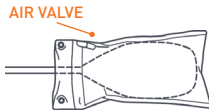
In addition to a standard first aid kit, the well prepared paddler should always carry a knife. Life saving ropes can quickly turn into life threatening snares and kayakers must be prepared to cut any rope that might entangle them. It's also a good idea to carry materials to fashion an arm sling since kayakers are susceptible to arm and shoulder injuries. Your local Mission dealer or instructor can help you select safety gear. In addition to the above "must haves," the following pieces of safety equipment — depending on the situation — are also critical to safe kayaking.



PADDLE FLOAT

A necessity for self rescue. With one end of your paddle attached to your kayak, a paddle float slips over the other end to create an outrigger that provides enough stability to allow you to climb back into your boat.

See Rescue Techniques later in this section for a detailed description of the outrigger self rescue.



BILGE PUMP/ SPONGE

In the event of a capsize, a high capacity hand bilge pump is helpful to drain the kayak. A large sponge is necessary for soaking up small puddles.

FLASHLIGHT

When paddling at night, it is a good idea to have a flashlight which can be displayed at a moment's notice to prevent a collision. Buy a good quality, waterproof flashlight. Headlamps allow hands free operation (you can keep paddling). Since a flashlight or headlamp is your best means of alerting motor boats to your presence at night, always check the batteries before heading out on the water.

WHISTLE

A good quality plastic whistle allows kayakers to have some means of making an efficient sound signal at their disposal in order to communicate with or warn boaters of their presence. If a whistle is your choice, a short tether can be used to attach it to your PFD.

ELECTRONICS

When kayaking offshore, devices like VHF Radios and Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) can significantly enhance your safety. Even a simple AM/FM radio provides excellent warning of advancing thunderstorms (just listen for static).



RED
PARACHUTE
FLARE

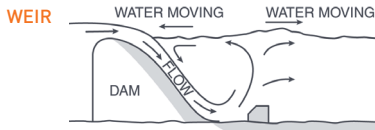
Pyrotechnic signaling devices can cause severe injury and property damage if not handled properly. Follow the manufacturer's directions regarding the proper use of signaling devices. Always stow devices where they will be out of the reach of children, yet allow you ready access.

DANGEROUS WATER FEATURES

Knowledgeable paddlers have a saying:

“Never float alone, never float unknown.”

Aside from the wisdom of paddling with others who will be there in case of an accident, “never float unknown” should be a guideline all paddlers use. River conditions can change drastically throughout the year (with changes in water level and weather), so always scout ahead as you head down river. On open water, be aware of boat traffic, navigation rules, currents and tides. Always bring along charts, maps and a compass when exploring unfamiliar waters.



IN OPEN WATER

Kayakers share the bays, lakes and rivers with all types of watercraft. Keep a constant lookout for boats and personal watercraft, especially behind you. Kayakers must be aware of entering shipping channels in rivers and bays. Large ships will not be able to avoid you if you paddle into their path. Changes in the weather and tides are responsible for the majority of hazardous situations kayakers face. Always check current local weather forecasts before heading out on the water.

ON THE RIVER

Weirs are probably the most dangerous feature found on rivers. The low, smooth flow of water over these man-made dams is extremely dangerous. You can spot approaching weirs by the characteristic “horizon line” they create across the water. If you see a straight,

horizontal line ahead, paddle directly for a bank, get out of the water, and take a look at the dam.



Before deciding to run any weirs, realize that even innocent looking ones are considered extremely dangerous by expert kayakers.

Fallen trees extending into the water from riverbanks (also known as “strainers”) can be very dangerous. This is especially true when a strainer is located on the outside of a river bend where the current is swiftest and its force can trap a kayaker against the branches.

The dangerous water features described above are even more serious hazards with the fast currents and large discharge associated with spring flood waters. Typically these waters are extremely cold due to snowmelt, increasing the danger of cold shock and hypothermia.

RESCUE TECHNIQUES

WET EXIT

Although most experienced kayakers know some variation of the roll, being able to roll is not a prerequisite to kayaking enjoyment. In the event that you capsize and are not able to roll — this even happens to expert kayakers — you must perform a wet exit (exiting the kayak while upside down in the water). It is a good idea to practice your wet exit in shallow water with an assistant to ensure familiarity with the technique before using it in a real situation.

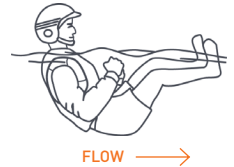
When you wet exit keep the following in mind:

- 1 Even though you will be in an awkward position, try to relax.
- 2 Release the sprayskirt by pulling the grabloop forward and lifting the skirt off the cockpit coaming.
- 3 Place your hand on the kayak next to your hips, lean backwards and push yourself out of the boat.
- 4 Grab your kayak when you reach the surface. Hold onto your kayak and paddle, unless this threatens your personal safety.



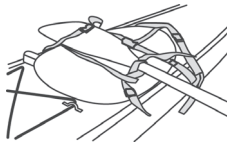
WHITewater SWIMMING POSITION

If you wet exit while paddling a river and are being washed downstream, assume the whitewater position. While holding your kayak tightly (and pointed downstream so you don't get caught between it and a rock), float on your back with your toes out of the water. This position helps keep your feet from becoming tangled or trapped, and allows your legs to work as shock absorbers to protect you from rocks. As soon as you reach a fairly quiet stretch of river get to shore and out of the water.



PADDLE FLOAT SELF- RESCUE

If you wet exit on open water, you may find yourself too far away from shore to swim to

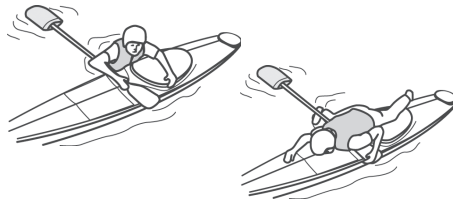


safety. In this case, performing the paddle float self rescue will allow you to get back into your kayak.

- 1 With one hand on the kayak at all times, attach a paddle blade to the after deck. Some kayaks have a molded in blade holder, others have web straps to secure the paddle blade to the deck (see illustration). Do not let go of the paddle.
- 2 Slip the paddle float over the end of the other paddle blade and inflate it.
- 3 With the kayak stabilized by the makeshift outrigger the paddle and paddle float you have

created, you can now carefully slide up onto the after deck and put your legs into the cockpit. Keep your weight on the outrigger and hold the paddle perpendicular to the kayak.

- 4 Before your legs are fully in the cockpit, carefully turn over and slide into the boat. Keep your weight low, lie close to the cockpit and deck.
- 5 Pump out your kayak (using portable bilge pump), and remove your paddle from the after deck rigging.

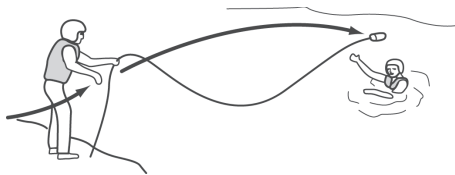


USING A THROW BAG

A throw bag conveniently holds rescue rope and automatically feeds it out when the bag is thrown. Several points are important to keep in mind when using throw bags:

- The knack of using a throw bag effectively requires practice. Before finding yourself in the position of needing to use a throw bag, toss one around your yard until you're able to throw one accurately.
- Use your throw bag rope only for rescue situations, and keep the rope in top-notch condition. Be especially careful to keep dirt and sand out of the fibres of your rope since they will eventually cause damage and weaken its strength.
- Regularly inspect your throw bag rope for wear and replace it if necessary.

To use a throw bag, anchor the free end by standing on it or having another person hold it. Then heave the bag to the person in the water. Do not tie your end of the rope off. If the person receiving the rope becomes entangled, let go of your end immediately.



HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia is one of, if not the, major cause of accidental deaths among kayakers and boaters. Since water draws heat away from the body faster than air, cold water exposure can quickly lead to a drop in the body's temperature. When the core temperature of the body cools below a certain critical point, a person is no longer able to generate enough heat to rewarm him/herself and may eventually die of heart failure. At the earliest sign of possible hypothermia, put on warmer clothes and get out of the elements.

The following warning signs indicate the possibility of hypothermia:

- **Violent shivering (and even worse, no shivering if accompanied by the following symptoms).**
- **Inability to warm up.**
- **Blue-grey skin color.**
- **Muscle spasms.**
- **Confusion and drunken behavior.**

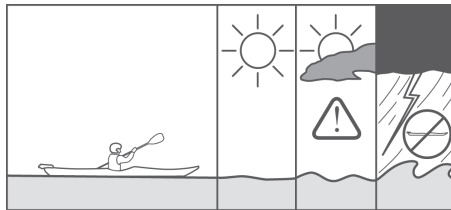
Do not give warm drinks or alcohol, or vigorously massage a victim of hypothermia. Call for help. Then apply warm compresses — either warm towels or chemical heat pads — to the victim's head, neck and trunk. If compresses are unavailable, body heat from rescuers should be used. Since a victim of hypothermia cannot generate enough body heat to warm themselves, simply wrapping a victim in blankets does little good.

COLD SHOCK

Cold shock develops when the body, especially the chest and head, are suddenly immersed in very cold water. Because water is more dense than air, it has more energy and mass. Cold water will drain body heat much more quickly than cold air. Your body has mechanisms to adjust blood flow to regulate your body temperature, but a sudden total immersion in cold water can make it impossible for your body to compensate quickly enough. This results in instant cardiac arrhythmia and respiratory failure.

The best way to prevent both hypothermia and cold shock is to dress warmly and stay dry. Proper clothing selection is very important. Wet suits are commonly used by paddlers to combat the effects of cold water and wind. And, because neoprene (the material wet suits

are made of) contains tiny insulating air bubbles, wet suits also provide additional flotation. Read about clothing selection in the Accessories section of this manual, or ask your dealer for information on selecting the right clothes.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPECT

There are two ways it's important for us to show respect for the environment we enter with a kayak. First, we must respect the power of nature. Your safety while kayaking depends on your understanding that nature can be unforgiving. Stay within your abilities. Scout unfamiliar water. Ask experienced local paddlers to show you the ropes. Keep a watchful eye on the weather. In short, use common sense when paddling. Secondly, we must all treat our natural environment and paddling resources with the reverent respect it deserves and tread lightly. We hope that you share in our commitment to conservation.

ACCESSORIES

PADDLES

Your paddle has a big impact on how enjoyable paddling will be. One that's poorly made and doesn't fit you can make for a miserable day on the water, while a high quality, well selected paddle is a real delight. Personal preferences definitely figure into your selection. How does it feel? How fast are you going to paddle? How far? These are all important questions to consider and discuss with your dealer. If you can, try out several different styles and lengths to get a feel for what's most comfortable. When choosing a paddle keep these important characteristics in mind.

DESIGN

- Wide blades provide better acceleration, long and narrow blades are good for paddling long distances.
- "Feathered" paddles are easier to use when paddling into the wind since the blade that's out of the water is horizontal and offers no wind resistance.
- Oval shaped shafts tend to better fit the hand, helping with both comfort and control.

CONSTRUCTION

- Paddles are made from many different materials — lighter is usually better (and more expensive).
- Paddles made from synthetic materials require less maintenance than wooden ones.
- Paddles can be made with a take-apart joint that allows the paddle to be broken down for easier storage and transport, and allows the blades to be set feathered or straight.

SIZE

Paddle length is really a matter of personal preference. Go with what feels best. Keep in mind that a longer paddle tends to be necessary if your kayak is wide or if you're more comfortable with a slower paddling stroke. Before buying, try several different lengths to find what feels most comfortable. The following chart makes a good starting point:

Paddler Height	Whitewater	Touring
152-160cm [5' - 5'3"]	197-200cm	210-220cm
162-170cm [5'4" - 5'7"]	197-203cm	210-230cm
173-180cm [5'8" - 5'11"]	200-203cm	220-230cm
183-190cm [6' - 6'3"]	203-206cm	225-240cm
193-200cm [6'4" - 6'7"]	203-209cm	230-240cm

SPRAYSKIRTS

Sprayskirts are usually made of either nylon, breathable nylon or neoprene. Nylon is cooler than neoprene, but neoprene's better at keeping water out of your boat. Having a sprayskirt that properly fits you and your boat is critical, so ask your dealer for help in picking out the right one. Be sure to keep your grabloop accessible at all times.

CLOTHING

It's also important to protect your feet, head and hands from the elements. Neoprene booties keep your feet warm and provide protection from rocks. A wool pile or polypropylene cap prevents heat loss through the head. And neoprene or wool gloves or paddle mitts (which are attached to your paddle and allow easy hand entry/exit) will keep your hands warm on especially cool days. When properly fitted, paddling clothing should not interfere with your range of motion or flap too much in the wind. Loose fitting, lightweight clothing with a good SPF is essential during the warmer months. Long sleeves, high collars, gloves and hats are essential.

STORAGE GEAR

A variety of storage gear is available for waterproof or "water tolerant" storage. This range includes rolltop dry bags, waterproof boxes for cameras and other valuables, and even our unique pod for the rear of our sit on top kayak models. See your Mission dealer for more information.



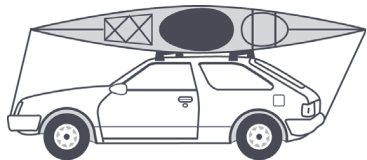
CHECK OUT OUR RANGE
OF KAYAKING GEAR ONLINE
AND AVAILABLE IN STORE.

CARE AND REPAIR

TRANSPORTING YOUR KAYAK

When cartopping your kayak always keep the following in mind:

- Place your kayak either upside down or on edge to lessen the chance of distortion. For most touring kayaks, place the cartop racks under the boat's bulkheads where the hull is strongest.
- Pad your roof bars with high density foam.
- Tie the kayak securely to the roof rack.



! CAUTION

While you want your tie-down ropes to be secure, be careful not to make them so tight that you risk distorting the hull shape of your boat.

- As an additional margin of safety, tie down the ends of the kayak by running a rope from the grabloops to the front and back bumpers of your car.
- Use a cockpit cover to keep the interior of your cockpit clean.
- Distortion created by improper storage or transportation is compounded by excessive exposure to heat.

Cartop racks, available from your dealer, are especially designed to make your trip to the water safe and protect the integrity of your boat.

STORAGE

To protect your boat (and your investment in it) during storage:

- Never store your kayak in direct sunlight (although your kayak has been treated to inhibit the sun's effects, all plastics deteriorate with age when exposed to ultraviolet rays).
- Store your kayak either upside down, on edge or on one end.

Using Mission's cockpit cover you can store your PFD, booties and any bags etc. inside your kayak keeping out insects and spiders.

! CAUTION

DON'T HANG YOUR KAYAK BY ITS GRABLOOPS — OVER TIME THIS CAN DISTORT ITS SHAPE.

CLEANING

Your kayak is designed to need a minimum amount of maintenance. If you ever want to wash it, mild soap and water should do the job. Stubborn stains can usually be removed with a pressure washer. Be careful not to remove decals, striping, etc. For tough dirt, use a little rubbing alcohol. After paddling in saltwater, brackish or polluted water, thoroughly rinse the footrests and all hardware with plenty of fresh water.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

RECYCLE-REUSE-REINCARNATE

In addition to supporting conservation efforts we're dedicated to the principle of recycling. That's why all of our scrap plastic and any boats that don't measure up to our strict quality standards get recycled and reused. We use recycled materials in the seats, thigh braces and other accessories. Another way we support recycling is the way we ship our boats. Each of our kayaks is packaged using recyclable and reusable polyethylene. This protects the boat during shipping without creating mounds of unusable rubbish.

CONSERVATION

There's only one thing more essential to kayaking than a kayak, and that's water. Healthy rivers, lakes, streams and oceans are important to us as people, as paddlers and as inhabitants of the planet. That's why as a company, we do everything we can to protect and preserve the resource. When you purchase a Mission product, you're helping to support numerous major conservation efforts.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT KAYAKING

TAKE A LESSON Confidence on the water is key to enjoying kayaking. The way you get confident is through quality instruction. Whether you're a beginner looking to learn basic strokes and braces, or an experienced kayaker who wants to brush up on river reading, team building or river rescue skills, there's a course and instructor for you.

When looking for instruction, ask the following questions:

- **Are instructors certified** by the Australian Canoeing (AC) or New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association (NZRCA) or registered bodies. This is a sign of professionalism.
- **How long has the school been in business?** Be somewhat wary of programs just starting up. Also, ask for references from former students.

- **What is the student/instructor ratio?**

Three or four students to an instructor is nice. A few more than four may be acceptable. Think twice about a class with one teacher and ten or more students.

Mission works closely with paddling schools in Australia and New Zealand. Look up our website at www.missionkayaking.com if you want to learn what we know about programs in your area.

In addition to official schools, paddling clubs are a great way to get information and meet other people who are into paddling. Open water kayakers must have a solid understanding of the nautical "Rules of the Road," as well as knowledge of the minimum equipment requirements for small boats.

For more information, call or write:

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WE OFFER YOU A WARRANTY BECAUSE WE HAVE TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN THE QUALITY OF OUR PRODUCTS AND ARE PROUD TO STAND BEHIND THEM FOR YOUR WARRANTY TO BE VALID YOU MUST HAVE REGISTERED WITH US AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE

OUR WARRANTY IS OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU THE ORIGINAL PURCHASER

Our products are fully warranted to the original purchaser, against defects in materials and workmanship. This excludes commercial users.

If our product fails due to a manufacturing fault, it will be repaired free of charge. It will be replaced if repairs are not practical.

If the product fails due to normal wear and tear, accident or negligence, we will gladly repair it for a reasonable cost.







STAY SAFE OUT THERE AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU GET UP TO. VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH US AND OTHER MISSION PADDLERS. WWW.MISSIONKAYAKING.COM





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