

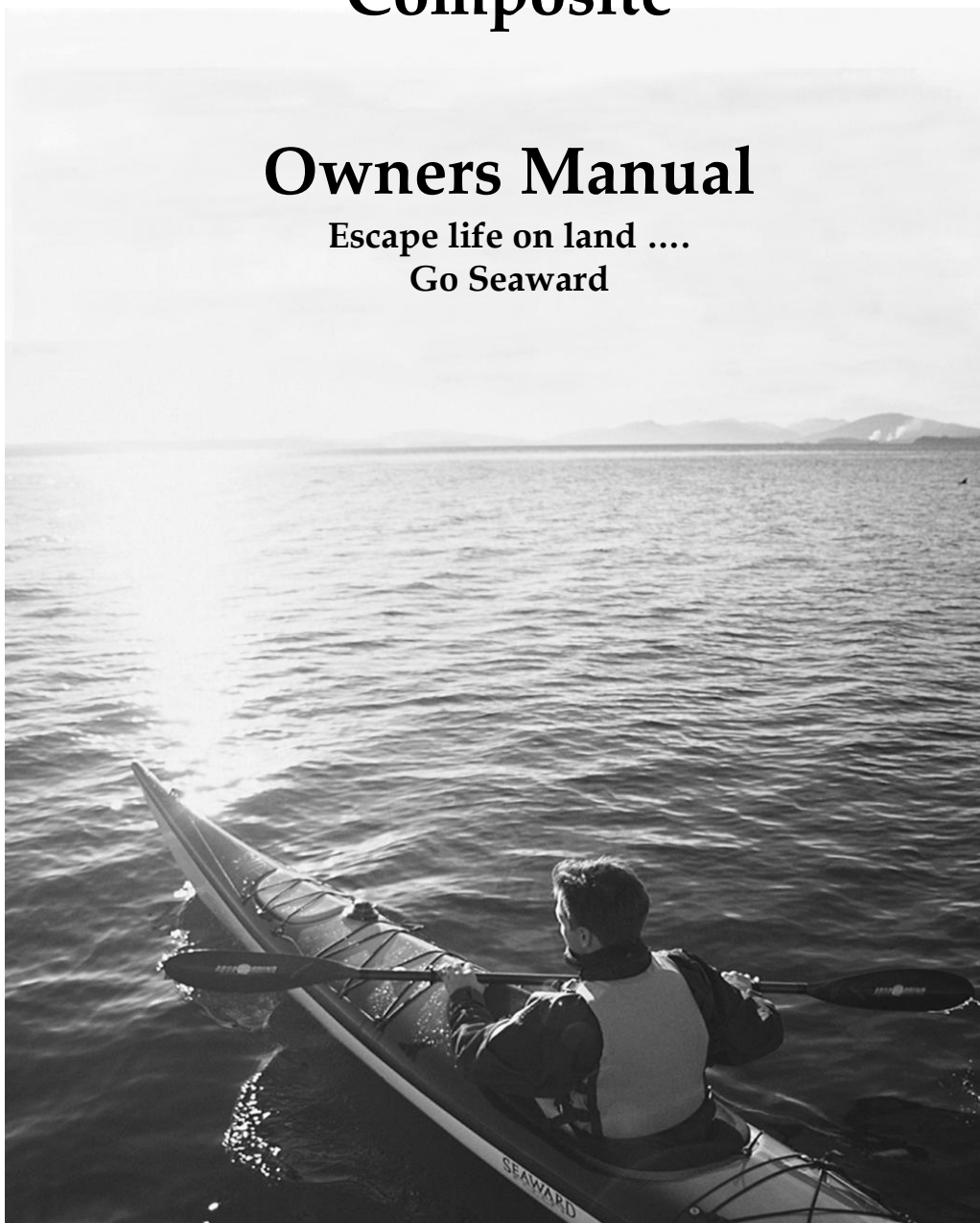
SEAWARD

KAYAKS

Composite

Owners Manual

Escape life on land
Go Seaward



Welcome to the Seaward Family

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Seaward Kayak! You are obviously a perceptive paddler and have recognized the quality, performance and innovation built into every Seaward kayak. Whether you are a new or experienced paddler, it is our hope that you will enjoy many years of adventuring with your new boat.

Kayaking is a great way to enjoy the wonders of nature and view the abundant marine life and environment in a non-invasive way. And it's a great way to stay fit!

You have purchased a kayak that has been hand-crafted with care and expertise by a company that places your safety and enjoyment as a top priority when designing and building kayaks. You can be sure that our dedicated staff, many of whom are active outdoor people like yourself, have put their best effort into the design and construction of your Seaward kayak.

We wish you many years of enjoyable kayak touring, but please take the time to familiarize yourself with the safety guidelines in this manual. It is each kayaker's responsibility to educate themselves about the inherent dangers that may exist when kayaking.

Study the pages on kayak care and read about the many unique features of your Seaward kayak. Then when it's time to go paddling you can do so with the confidence that you're paddling one of the finest kayaks being built today.

SEAWARD KAYAKS

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Checklist of Kayaking Safety Equipment

Please check your local boating regulations for a list of required safety equipment when kayaking. At a very minimum, your kayak should carry the following items:

- Paddle float
- Throw bag with buoyant line
- Whistle
- Hand pump
- Spray Skirt
- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) should always be worn whenever you leave the shore

In addition, depending on where you are planning to paddle and the various conditions that you may encounter, you may also want to carry a compass, signal flares, first-aid kit, tool kit, knife, spare paddle, etc. It is advisable to research the areas where you will be touring and include any additional equipment for emergencies.

Safety

Before Kayaking, You Should

1. Familiarize yourself with all features of and accessories for your Seaward Kayak.
2. Obtain appropriate instruction from a certified kayak instructor.
3. Obtain appropriate instruction in first-aid techniques and CPR. Become aware of the risks and prevention of Hypothermia (a potentially life-threatening condition caused by a reduction in a person's core temperature).
4. Select appropriate equipment and clothing that will increase your margin of safety in conditions that may occur while you are kayaking.
5. Have a paddling buddy; never kayak alone.
6. Obtain and read literature about kayaking that will increase your awareness and safety.

WARNING

Water and weather conditions can create hazardous situations. It is your responsibility to become familiar with these hazards to avoid injury or death while kayak touring.

Obtain certified instruction and become familiar with your new kayak in a safe environment. Familiarize yourself with maritime regulations in your area (i.e. Coast Guard regulations). Learn about weather, waves, coastlines, first-aid navigation, rescue, survival and other hazards before you expose yourself or others to potentially hazardous situations.

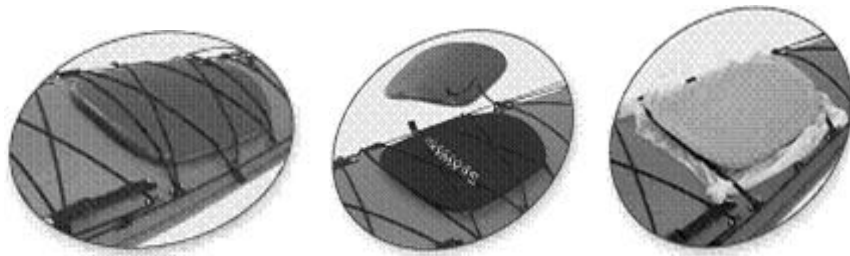
Seaward Kayaks Manufacturing designs and constructs well-made kayaks. Serious consideration is given to safety in our kayaks. However, any person using a Seaward Kayak assumes responsibility for any injury or death that may occur as a result of using any Seaward Kayaks product.

1,2,3 TOTAL SAFETY!

safeHATCH™

The safeHATCH™ provides three layers of storage protection on most Seaward kayaks.

1. The hard shell outer hatch cover is tethered to the boat to prevent loss;
2. The neoprene inner hatch cover is also tethered to the kayak. These covers are silk-screened with which hatch it fits (bow or stern) and which direction the cover goes on;
3. If the hard shell and/or neoprene hatch covers get lost, your cockpit cover or any waterproof material, even a garbage bag, can be secured over the hatch using the easy bungee system. This creates a water-resistant seal that will allow the kayak to be paddled to your destination.



Self Rescue System™ SRS™

Self Rescue System™ is available on most Seaward kayak models, and is used in conjunction with a paddle float. Nylon rescue straps mounted on the deck just aft of the cockpit can be used during a rescue. Using the SRS straps, the paddle can be securely attached to the deck of the kayak, making paddle float self-rescues safer and easier.

During re-entry place the paddle at right angles to the kayak, slide a paddle blade under the straps and slide a paddle float on the other blade. This creates a stable 'outrigger' to assist re-entry. After re-entry, pull on the red tabs to safely release your paddle blade.



One Piece Hatch Cover

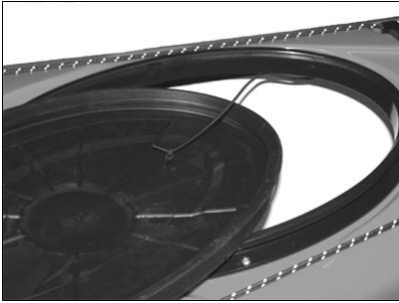
Nigel Foster kayaks and select Seaward models utilize one piece hatch covers. These covers, made of rubber and/or plastic are durable and easy to use.

Be sure your hatch cover is fully centered and seated completely at the edge before launching. Small gaps between the cover and the hatch ring will allow water to enter your kayak, compromising your safety and comfort.

Kajak Sport oval hatches come with a "hash mark" on the cover and ring at the 12:00 and 6:00 position. By aligning these marks, you can ensure that your hatch cover is installed properly each time.

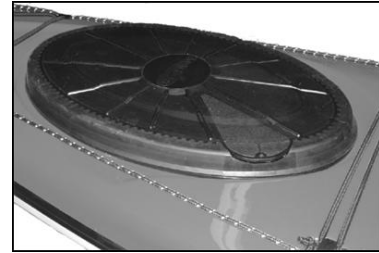
Rinse your hatch covers at the same time you rinse your kayak.

One piece hatch covers include a tether to connect the cover to the kayak. Be sure the tether remains in place and attached to avoid losing the cover accidentally.



Periodically treat the hatch cover and ring with 303 Protectant. This will prevent UV damage and will also make the hatch cover easier to install over the ring.

One piece hatch covers can create a very airtight seal. Changes in temperature or altitude can cause the hatch covers to expand or contract. To avoid losing hatch covers while traveling or causing damage to bulkheads, either remove the hatches, creating a gap to allow the air inside the chamber to escape, or drill a very small hole near the top of the bulkhead to allow air exchange.

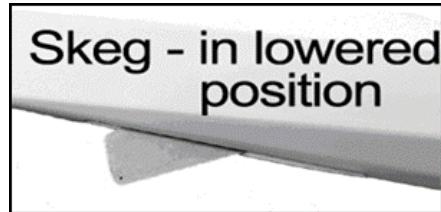


Features of a Seaward Kayak

Rudder/Skeg Description and Use

Depending on the model, your kayak may be equipped with either a rudder or skeg.

Both devices keep your kayak going in the direction you want it to go.



Rudder

A rudder can help you keep your kayak on course in difficult weather and currents. To deploy your rudder on kayaks with a traditional system, pull the large knot on the right side of the rudder deployment line towards the bow of the kayak. (photo showing model reaching back to grab knot) Once you are familiar with the location of this knot, you will find that you will not need to turn around to pull the knot. To bring the rudder back up on deck, pull the large knot behind your left hand.

From 2008 onwards, Seaward's ruddered thermoform kayaks are equipped with the Rudder deployment switch. To operate, just slide the control knob towards the stern to deploy the rudder. To retract the rudder, slide the control knob towards the bow.



To move the rudder to one side, pivot or slide the foot pedal on that side forward. On kayaks equipped with locking (pivoting) foot pedals, it is only necessary to tilt the foot slightly to depress the top of the pedal and move the rudder. "Push right, go right - Push left, go left".

Never force the foot pedals. Before launching, always check to make sure your foot pedals move the rudder fully from one side to the other. If there is less than full movement, adjust the pedals or otherwise inspect the mechanism to determine why there is less than full movement.

Note that the kayak must be moving for the rudder to help turn the kayak.

Skeg



Like a rudder, a retractable skeg can help keep your kayak on course in difficult wind and currents. Skegs will lessen or eliminate the tendency of most kayaks to turn up into the wind, or 'weathercock'. The skeg will not help turn the kayak.

To deploy the skeg, slide the control knob forward. Note that the skeg blade may be deployed only partially to fine tune the amount of directional control applied. To retract the skeg, slide the control knob back. Always retract the skeg when coming into the beach or when otherwise landing the kayak. Note that on kayaks equipped with a skeg, the foot pedals are for comfort and security only and should not move or pivot while under way.

Foot Pedals

(2016 and newer models)

SmartTrack Toe Pilot Foot Controls

The lower part of the pedal is locked in one position, giving a solid brace for your feet. Steering is done by subtle pushing of the upper part of the pedals **using your toes**. Thus **your feet won't slide back and forth during steering**. This allows you to place your feet, legs and hips at the optimal angle and put more power into your strokes at the same time.

Pedal position can be easily **adjusted by hand – even while seated in the kayak**. An adjustment bar is used to do this: just pull it up and out, then slide it in the right position. Once it clicks, just release the bar and it will be fixed without slipping. While adjustment can be easily done, the ergonomic design of the tracks prevent pedals to be accidentally dislodged as well.

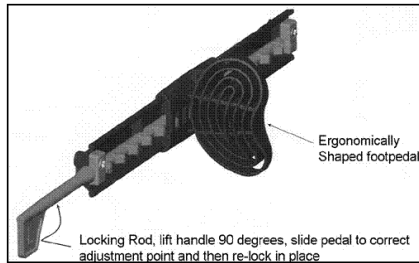


(2015 and older Models)

Seadog Foot Pedals are standard on most Seaward Kayaks. To adjust these foot pedals turn the red plastic "flag" to the open position.

The foot pedal will now slide freely on the track (note that the flag itself and the red connecting rod do not slide, only the foot pedal). When the foot pedal is in a comfortable position, turn the flag back to the closed position. You can adjust the angle of the footpedal by either loosening or tightening the webbing strap buckle behind the seat pillars.

You can fine tune the angle of the footpedal by either loosening or tightening the webbing strap buckle behind the seat pillars.



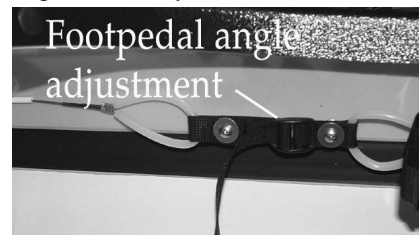
For the best blend of comfort and performance, the balls of the feet should be on the foot pedal and the thighs should be firmly, but not uncomfortably, secure under the thigh braces. For most paddlers, the feet will be in a heels-together, toes-out position (slightly bow-legged). Most novice paddlers will adjust their foot pedals too far away so that they have to reach out and lose contact with the thigh braces to activate the foot pedals (on boats with rudders). As a paddler's skill

progresses, it is often the case that the paddler will move their pedals closer to get more firm contact with the thigh braces and a more "locked in" feeling.

For maximum comfort during a long paddle, be sure to move your feet off of the foot pedals and stretch from time to time (when it is safe to do so).

Sliding foot pegs are available as an alternative for paddlers or rental companies who frequently re-adjust foot peg lengths. To adjust, pull the nylon straps at the sides of the cockpit until the pedal is a comfortable distance. You should be able to slide the pedal forward by extending your leg from the knee. With the leg relaxed, you should be able to contact the thigh brace areas.

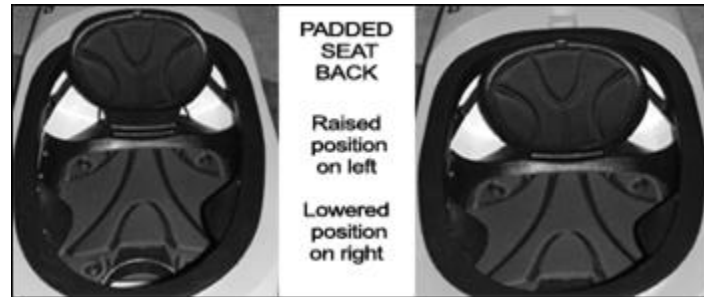
Seaward's pivoting and padded backrest provides support for the lower back and can be moved forward or backward by installing it into pre-drilled holes on the side flaps of the cockpit to ensure comfort and fit. An adjusting strap through the rear of the backrest controls the angle of the seatback and locks the backrest at the optimum angle for maximum comfort.



Fitting Your Kayak for Comfort and Performance

Seating Comfort

The anatomically molded and padded seat has an adjustable backrest. A large screw knob on the rear of the backrest will raise and lower the seat back. There are also webbing straps which can be tightened or loosened and these adjust the forward and backward angle of the seat back.



Cleaning

Regularly rinse the entire kayak with fresh water, especially after use in salt water. Pay particular attention to the backrest, foot pedals, rudder, neoprene hatch covers and deck lines. Rinse any sand and debris out of the cockpit and hatches with fresh water, and dry hatches thoroughly with a soft cloth before replacing hatch covers.

The exterior of the kayak can be washed with a mild detergent to help it perform better and last longer. A spray UV protectant such as 303 Aerospace Protectant can help prevent fading and damage to the kayak.

Preventive Maintenance

Check nylon adjusting straps, shock cord, ropes, cables and keel guard for wear. Replace if necessary.

Check bulkheads for air tightness using the neoprene hatch cover. Lift a corner of the hatch cover while pushing down in the centre. Replace the corner, creating a seal. The air should stay trapped. If it does not, you may have a leak. Reseal bulkheads with silicone or have the kayak professionally repaired.

Seaward recommends that owners keep their kayaks looking pristine. If you use 303 Aerospace Protectant it has the advantage of having U.V. protection built in.

Kayak Care

Transporting and Security

Always secure your kayak properly whether you are storing, transporting or locking it up. When transporting your kayak, it should always be empty with the rudder (if applicable) in the locked position. Use a solid, specialized roof rack system with kayak cradles. Kayak cradles distribute pressure evenly when loaded on a kayak rack.

Cam buckle straps and bow and stern lines provide the safest, most secure transport of your kayak. Always place straps as close as possible to the bulkheads, the strongest area of a boat. Cinch the straps snugly without over-tightening. Over-tightening can put undue stress on your boat's hull, and can cause damage to the finish on a fiberglass/composite kayak. It can also cause warping of the hull on a thermoform boat. Run bow and stern safety lines as a secondary safety measure.

To lock your kayak to a roof rack, run a cable through the cockpit coaming's side flaps (beside the seat bottom), the U-bolt, or security bar. Fasten the cable to the roof rack.

It's a good idea to stop and check your load occasionally as you travel.

Storage

To prevent rain and soil from entering the cockpit, always use your cockpit cover when storing or transporting your kayak.

Protect your kayakers from exposure to the sun and UV damage. A kayak stored in very cold conditions may become fragile to impact until it warms up.

When storing the kayak, remove any neoprene hatch covers to prevent the elastic from wearing out and to allow airflow in the compartments. Additionally, the cockpit cover should be removed periodically and any moisture in the cockpit area sponged out (in humid climates, ambient humidity can condense and pool in the cockpit area when covered).

Kayakers should be raised off the ground to help prevent damage due to moisture. To suspend a kayak we recommend using a cradle of 2" or wider nylon strapping around the bulkhead area. Never hang a kayak from the bow or stern. Your local Seaward Kayak dealer can advise you on the many storage options available.

Cockpit Cover

All Seaward Fiberglass Kayakers are shipped complete with a waterproof cockpit cover

When your kayak is not in use the cockpit should be covered at all times to keep out leaves, bugs and other debris.



Seaward Kayak Warranty

Hulls or decks of fiberglass/composite boats that prove defective after the original 12 months warranty will be repaired or replaced at the exclusive option of Seaward Kayaks Ltd. Seaward Kayaks is the sole judge on warranty issues.

Lifetime Limited Warranty (fiberglass/composite kayaks)

In the event the original owner sells the kayak, Seaward Kayaks will extend the warranty to the subsequent owners of the kayak only in the event that the original purchaser of the kayak has registered his/her original warranty, and the new owner also completes an on-line warranty registration at www.SeawardKayaks.com within 10 days of their purchase.

In the case of replacement, a hull or deck of the same or equivalent model may be used, at the exclusive option of Seaward Kayaks.

To activate your Original Owner Warranty, you must register on-line at www.SeawardKayaks.com within 10 days of the original purchase. Please retain your original sales receipt as additional proof of purchase.

The warranty will be null and void if the kayak is used in a commercial application, has been structurally altered in any manner or the kayak has been stressed beyond the normal physical limits of the materials.

This warranty does not cover freight damage, improper storage, normal wear and tear, color fading, abrasions, improper use, abuse, towing of the kayak.

Seaward Kayaks Ltd. reserves the right to modify its designs, specifications or products without notice and without incurring any obligations to modify, retrofit or incorporate such changes into any kayaks in production, in the possession of dealers or in use by paddlers. Boats repaired or replaced under this warranty may or may not incorporate any changes in design or specification.

The Warranty contained herein is the whole and exclusive warranty made by Seaward Kayaks Ltd.

There are no other warranties, expressed or implied, including a warranty of fitness for a particular purpose or of merchantability made with respect to any boat.

Seaward Kayaks Ltd. is not liable for any injury, mishap or loss incurred as the result of use of this product. The user of this product acknowledges and assumes any risks associated with such use and waives any and all claims against Seaward Kayaks Ltd, its owners, staff, representatives, agents and assigns.

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