



# MAD RIVER CANOE

∞ OWNER'S MANUAL ∞



## LEGEND OF THE MAD RIVER RABBIT

Every great symbol has a legend. Sitting at the bow of every Mad River Canoe is ours. The story of the Confident Rabbit is rooted in eastern Native American lore. As the tale is told, the Confident Rabbit sits comfortably amidst the ferns enjoying his pipe, even though his mortal enemy, the Lynx, prowls nearby. The Confident Rabbit is not concerned, for he relies on his wisdom and own strengths and will escape the Lynx as he has time and time again.

The symbol of the rabbit represents Mad River Canoe's pledge that our canoes are built to the highest standards of reliability and performance in the industry to give you the same confidence as the rabbit. It's that confidence in your canoe that allows you to focus on the environments and adventures that await of you, trusting your boat will get you there, and safely home again.

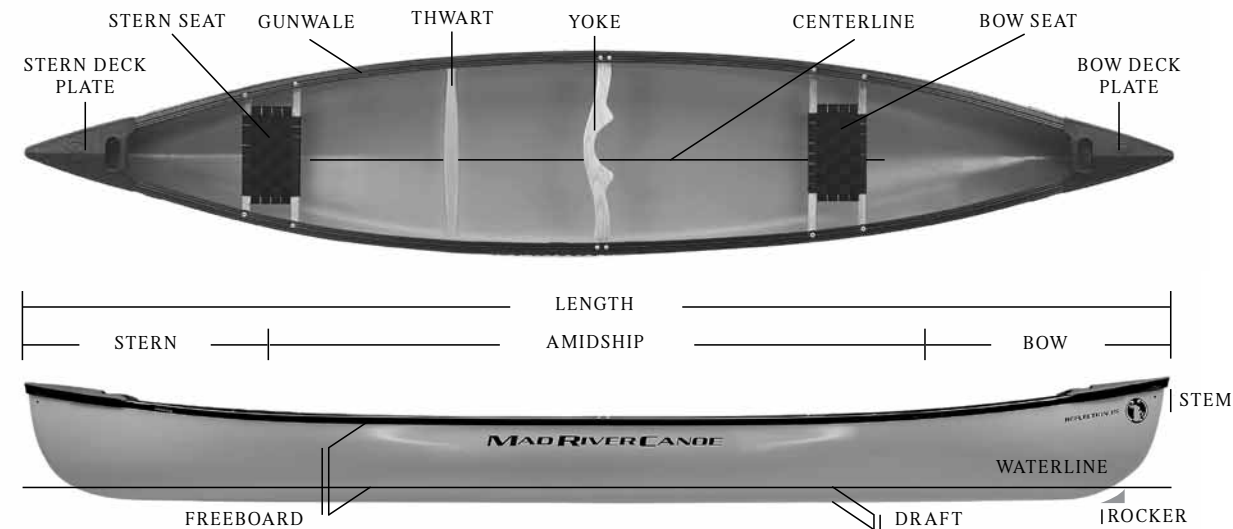


For 40 years, the name Mad River Canoe has been synonymous with quality and innovation. Our canoes provide the highest level of owner satisfaction in the industry. We sincerely thank you for choosing Mad River Canoe as the means to your adventure. Whether you're daydreaming of that special spot on the calm water or trekking to the edges of the unknown, our canoes will provide you the performance and confidence to get you there for years to come.

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This owner's manual and additional information is available at [www.madrivercanoe.com](http://www.madrivercanoe.com).



**IMPORTANT: CHECK HARDWARE**

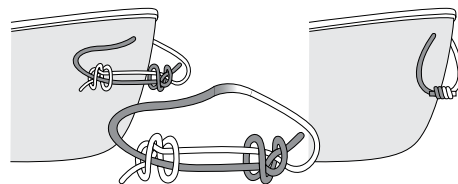
It is possible for fittings to work loose during shipping and handling. Check each seat, yoke, thwart, etc. to ensure it is firmly attached to the gunwales. Tighten any loose fittings with a Phillips head screwdriver and a 7/16" wrench.

**INSTALLING GRAB LOOPS**

Included with your canoe is a packet containing two lengths of cord to be used for grab loops at the ends of your canoe.

Thread one cord through the hole under your deck at each end of the canoe and tie off into a loop. A fisherman's or Flemish knot is strongly recommended for strength. It is also recommended that you set up 3/16" - 1/4" diameter "painter" lines approximately 8-10' in length at bow and stern of the canoe for added security when landing or tying off the boat to shore. They can be tied off to the carry handle behind each deck or to the grab loops. Keep lines coiled when not in use and out of the way.

**NOTE:** Adventure 14 and 16 are equipped with grab handles.



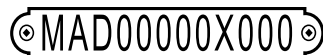
**NOTICE: STATE REGULATIONS**

Some states require that all canoes be registered. To register your canoe you will need your Manufacturer's Statement of Origin (MSO). This serves as the title to your canoe and should have been provided when you took delivery. If not, check with your retailer. If it has been lost, have your dealer contact Mad River Canoe and we will provide a replacement.

**NOTE:** Make sure the serial number on your MSO matches that on your hull.

**FINDING YOUR SERIAL NUMBER**

Your canoe's serial number is stamped on a brass plate or inscribed on the right side of the stern under the gunwale. You should record the serial number in the space provided on the last page of this manual for future reference. Your serial number is essential to reclaim a lost or stolen canoe, or to register and obtain warranty service.



**DO**

- Wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD).
- Wear a helmet when paddling whitewater or in the ocean.
- Get paddlesports instruction from a licensed or certified instructor.
- Dress appropriately for weather conditions; cold water and/or weather can result in hypothermia.
- Check your equipment prior to each use for signs of wear or failure.
- Scout unfamiliar waters. If necessary, paddle to shore and carry your boat past uncertain areas.
- Stay aware of appropriate river water levels, tidal changes, dangerous currents, and weather changes.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for use and outfitting of your canoe.
- Leave your paddling location and agenda with someone at home before departing.
- Abide by all precautions placed on hull by manufacturer.
- Obtain certified first aid and rescue training and carry first aid and rescue equipment.

**DON'T**

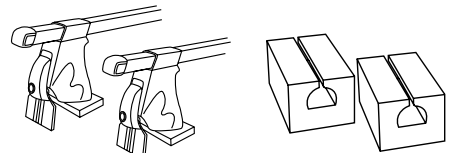
- Never exceed your ability and assess how far and how long you can paddle and swim.
- Never paddle alone.
- Never consume alcohol, drugs, or any other substance that may affect your coordination, judgment or ability when paddling.
- Never paddle in flood conditions
- Never allow minors to use the boat without adult supervision.
- Avoid bracing yourself in the canoe in such a way that you have to release any outfitting to escape.
- Do not use electric or gas motors without determining if motor power is appropriate for your model of canoe. Do not exceed weight or power limitations where stated.

**SPORT RACKS**

The sport rack systems consist of two rigid steel crossbars supported by feet or towers that are clipped into your vehicle's rain gutters or doorframes. The canoe rests on the crossbars and must be tied off bow and stern to the vehicle and at each crossbar. These racks are very secure and function well for long distance hauling at high speeds. It is important to ensure that the rack is rated adequately for the weight of your canoe.

**FOAM BLOCK RACKS**

Foam block systems are the least expensive and also less secure than sport racks. They consist of four foam blocks with milled slots to fit over the canoe gunwales. The canoe rests on the roof on these blocks and is secured at either end by ropes or straps running to the car and by a single or multiple over center straps or rope. Foam block systems are fine if you're hauling your canoe locally and are handy when making a shuttle run, but are not recommended for long trips at highway speeds.



SPORT RACKS

FOAM BLOCK RACKS

**OTHER TRANSPORTATION METHODS**

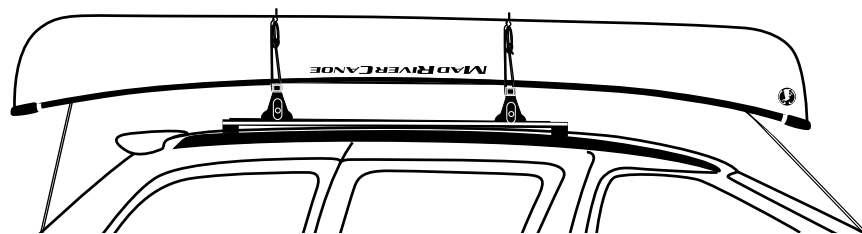
If you plan to carry your canoe in the bed of a pick-up truck, be aware that the canoe will be considerably longer than your bed and may extend far enough out behind your vehicle to require a red warning flag. Tie your canoe snugly into the bed and run it parallel to the vehicle; do not angle it to one side or the other as this can result in the canoe extending into neighboring traffic lanes.

**TIPS**

On hot sunny days, relieve the tension in your tie downs if you'll be leaving the canoe on a stationary vehicle for any length of time. Rainy weather will often result in ropes or straps stretching and becoming loose so check them periodically in the event of inclement weather. If using a bar rack overhead straps or ropes should be routed inside of the rack towers.

**SECURING AND POSITIONING**

Canoe should always be carried gunwales-down to avoid the chance it could fill with rainwater. A canoe full of water will weigh in excess of a 1000 lbs. and no vehicle is able to support that much weight safely. Make sure your ropes or straps are snug and tight but not so tight that they deform the hull in any way. Be careful tensioning the bow and stern tie downs as it's easy to overstress the hull by over tightening these lines. Periodically check that straps remain at proper tension and are not chafing or wearing themselves, the vehicle, or the boat.



**ROYALEX CANOES WITH WOOD GUNWALES**

Royalex canoes with wood gunwales are the most susceptible to cold cracks. It is critical that the wood gunwales be kept well oiled to help minimize the likelihood of cold cracks. Mad River Canoe recommends the following procedure to properly store your Royalex canoe with wood gunwales for winter if heated storage is not available:

- 1) Apply 303 Protectant to interior and exterior of hull.
- 2) Back out all gunwale screws except for the middle three in each gunwale with Phillips head screwdriver.
- 3) Lift gunwales and deck off canoe at each end and slide a piece of 1" thick wood between gunwales and top of hull.
- 4) Oil gunwales thoroughly with Gunwale Guard, paying particular attention to the inside surface of the gunwale that rests against exterior of hull. Also apply oil to underside of decks at each end of canoe.
- 5) Do not move or bump canoe if temperatures are below freezing. If snow is piled up on hull, remove with a broom. Do not lift and tilt canoe to free snow load.
- 6) In spring, apply coat of Gunwale Guard to gunwales.
- 7) Remove wood spacer and set gunwales in place on hull. Clamp gunwales in proper alignment with top of hull.
- 8) Reseat screws starting at center and working towards ends. Start all screws before tightening fully.

Canoes are best stored hull up/gunwales down on evenly spaced supports, such as sawhorses or beams securely attached to a wall or via web slings. Supports should be positioned approximately 1/3rd of the canoe length from each end.

If possible, store the canoe indoors in a heated area, but do not place near a direct source of heat or chemical vapors, such as a furnace or car exhaust. Take caution if the canoe must be stored outdoors that it is securely tied down and not exposed to elements such as falling tree branches or snow loads.

Before storing for winter, also be sure to treat the hull with a UV protectant such as 303 Aerospace Protectant (found at [harmonygear.com](http://harmonygear.com)). If your canoe has wood gunwales, apply a fresh coat of Gunwale Guard (found at [harmonygear.com](http://harmonygear.com)) before storing as well.

**PREPARING ROYALEX CANOES FOR WINTER STORAGE**

Royalex is susceptible to shrinkage when exposed to freezing temperatures. A sheering fracture ("cold crack") is a potential hazard if you live in areas with rapid temperature fluctuation or freezing temperatures. Cold cracks appear as most commonly as vertical cracks in the sides of the hull.

**Cold cracking is not covered under the canoe's warranty as they are related to material limitations not material defects. Cold cracks are repairable and assistance can be obtained by contacting your local dealer or Mad River Canoe.**

**CAUTION: USING COVERS** –A cover will provide some protection from the elements but do not let the cover rest directly on the hull as the cover will trap condensation and this can discolor the hull. Set wood or foam blocks on top of hull and drape cover over these risers to create an air space between hull and cover. Make sure cover is secured so it will not blow off.

**ROYALEX CANOES WITH VINYL GUNWALES**

- 1) Apply 303 Protectant to gunwales as well as hull. Be aware that gunwales will be slippery immediately after application.
- 2) If rapid decrease in temperature is forecast, covering the hull with an insulating blanket will lessen the likelihood of any cold cracks. Do not leave blanket in place if not needed.

**ROYALEX CANOES WITH ALUMINUM GUNWALES**

- 1) Inspect gunwales for any scratches penetrating the black finish. Lightly sand the scratch and cover with flat black enamel paint.
- 2) If rapid decrease in temperature is forecast, covering the hull with an insulating blanket will lessen the likelihood of any cold cracks. Do not leave blanket in place if not needed.

**AVOID THE FOLLOWING:**

- Do not store the canoe leaning on its side or flat on the ground as this can deform the hull or flatten the hull over time.
- Do not suspend the canoe right side up by hanging from the grabloops as this can increase the rocker (curvature of keel) of the hull.
- Do not place any objects on top of the canoe as this can also deform the hull.

## WOOD GUNWALES

Each gunwale is treated to multiple coats of Gunwale Guard before shipping from the factory. It is necessary to reapply Gunwale Guard to your gunwales periodically for maximum longevity. The actual frequency will be determined by amount of use and type of storage. Frequently used canoes that are stored out of doors will need the most frequent applications. Plan on a minimum of 4 applications annually: when you remove canoe from winter storage, twice during the paddling season, and again when you prepare the canoe for winter storage. Application of Gunwale Guard is not complicated or time-consuming:

### ROYALEX CANOE WITH WOOD GUNWALES

Remove the top deck plates at least once a year and treat exposed gunwales with Gunwale Guard. Use Mad River's Gunwale Guard Stain if your canoe has dark stained gunwales to restore color. Canoes stored outdoors will naturally grey as they weather. You can restore the blonde finish of the gunwales by sanding them or by rubbing them down with a weak bleach solution.

- 1) Clean Gunwales with a mild cleanser and sand with medium grit (120+) sandpaper until dry.
- 2) Apply liberal coat of Gunwale Guard with bristle brush, foam brush or rag.
- 3) Let sit for 5 to 10 minutes and wipe off excess with clean rag. Check to make sure oil has not dripped onto hull.

- 4) Flip canoe over onto gunwales and repeat process on bottom side of gunwales.
- 5) Repeat process to apply oil to decks, carry handles, and seat trusses (and footbrace if canoe is so equipped.) Do not oil varnished seats, yokes, or thwarts.

If your canoe has dark stained gunwales, apply coat of Gunwale Guard Dark Stain to gunwales following procedure as described above.

## VINYL GUNWALES

Periodic application of 303 Protectant is recommended to prevent gunwale from becoming brittle or fading in color. Apply according to manufacturer's instructions. Be aware gunwales will be slippery immediately after application. Use caution in handling canoe.

## ALUMINUM GUNWALES

The black surface finish can be scratched or abraded over time exposing aluminum surface. Lightly sand scratches or abrasion with fine grit sandpaper. Wipe surface clean with denatured alcohol and apply coat(s) of flat black enamel paint.

Aluminum gunwales should be rinsed with fresh water after exposure to salt water to reduce possibility of corrosion.

## HULLS

Modern hull materials require very little maintenance other than periodic cleaning and UV protection. 303 Protectant works very well with all hull materials. Waxing your hull is not recommended because it does not adhere well to Royalex or Polyethelyne hulls and inhibits more effective protectants such as 303 Protectant.

### TRIPLE TOUGH™ (TT) HULL (ROTOMOLDED 3 LAYER POLYETHYLENE)

Most dents or depressions will often work themselves out if left exposed to bright sunlight. Heating the hull with a hair dryer or hot air gun can restore more serious dents. Be careful to keep heating moving and do not bring heat source directly into contact with the hull. Heat on side of the hull with dent and press against the other side of hull with hand to push back into position. **Be careful of excessive heat, which can melt the Triple Tough™ skin.**

Over time, outer layers of the hull can abrade, exposing the core. If this occurs, the hull exterior can be welded. Contact your local authorized Mad River Canoe dealer for information.

## POLYETHYLENE HULLS

Periodic treatment with 303 Protectant will help maintain factory color intensity. These hulls are exceptionally durable, but extensive damage or numerous cracks must be welded to repair. Eventually the integrity of the hull could be lost after many repairs and should be retired, recycled, and replaced.

## COMPOSITE HULLS

If the hull is damaged, identify whether it is cosmetic or structural. Test for increased flexibility in the area around the damage. Compare side of canoe with damage to like area on the other side for lessened rigidity or broken fabric feathers or strands which indicate structural damage.

Most superficial scratches can be removed by wet sanding with 200 or 400 grit sand paper followed by rubbing and/or polishing compound. Shallow scratches are generally best left as-is or color matched using aerosol spray paint.

If gel coat is cracked or chipped it will be necessary to remove loosened or lifted gel coat and fill repair area with color-matched gel available from your local Mad River Canoe dealer.

If structural damage occurs, Kevlar and Fiberglass Repair Kits are available from your Mad River Canoe dealer. Professional assistance may be required from your dealer or someone with experience repairing canoes.

Periodically inspect the bottom of your hull to determine if scratches have penetrated the interior layers of the hull. If you can see the fabric-like weave of the fiberglass cloth, then you should repair the area to prevent further damage.

## ROYALEX® BY SPARTECH® HULLS

Most dents or abrasions need no attention as Royalex® by Spartech® is a very durable material. If dents are significant, you can often re-expand the hull in the damaged area by heating with a hair dryer or heat gun. Keep heat moving at all times and **do not bring source of heat into contact with the hull.** Heat on the side of hull with the dent and press against other side to bring back into position.

If outer skin reveals the next layer of differing color, protect hull from UV degradation by spray painting exposed area. Cut away lifted portions of skin with a sharp knife before painting exposed layers.

If the underlying layer is cracked or flexible when pushed, it will require repair. Harmony offers a Royalex patching resin. If the foam core is flexible, addition of multiple layers of fiberglass or Kevlar cloth on the interior hull may be necessary. Materials can be obtained through your local Mad River Canoe dealer.

For whitewater or shallow rivers, Kevlar skid plates should be considered on the ends of the boat. These reinforcements protect the end of the boat from impact of abrasion.

## SEATS, THWARTS, YOKES

Any nicks or cuts in the marine spar varnish should be recoated as soon as possible. Lightly sand with fine grit sandpaper, wipe clean, and apply several thin coats of varnish, allowing each coat to dry before the next application.

An annual application of varnish to the cane in the seats will extend their longevity. Do not sand the cane; simply apply several light coats of varnish. Also, do not sand or varnish the webbing in the webbed seats.

# ⚓ LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY ⚓

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For the original retail purchaser (“Consumer”), Mad River Canoes by Confluence Watersports provides a lifetime warranty against material or manufacturing defects in the hull.

Parts, accessories, and outfitting (including gunwales) are warranted for a period of one (1) year against material or manufacturing defects from the date of purchase.

For Mad River Canoes sold as “2nd quality” as indicated on the Manufacturer’s Statement of Origin (MSO), Confluence Watersports provides this limited warranty for five (5) years for the hull and one (1) year for parts, accessories and outfitting.

This limited warranty is only valid with the purchase of a Mad River Canoe from an Authorized Mad River Canoe Dealer. This warranty is non-transferable.

## HOW TO REGISTER YOUR BOAT

The warranty registration form should be completed online at [www.madrivercanoe.com](http://www.madrivercanoe.com) to be activated. It is suggested that you keep your sales receipt should it be required in the future for proof of purchase.

## OBTAINING WARRANTY SERVICE

If you have a problem with your canoe and you suspect that it may be due to defective materials or workmanship, contact the nearest authorized Mad River Canoe dealer and arrange to have the problem inspected. Consumer is responsible for delivery to, and pickup from, the closest authorized dealer.

If the authorized Mad River Canoe dealer’s inspection indicates a defect that is attributable to materials or workmanship, Confluence Watersports will repair or replace your Mad River Canoe canoe free of charge at the company’s option. Proof of purchase such as a sales receipt may be required. If repairs or evaluation are required by Mad River Canoe at its manufacturing facility, the Consumer will be responsible for a \$50.00 shipping and handling fee.

If service is required in a country that is not the country of purchase, Consumer will comply with all applicable export laws and regulations and be responsible for all customs duties, value add tax (VAT), and other associated taxes and charges. For international service, the Mad River Canoe Distributor may repair or exchange defective products and parts with comparable products and parts that comply with local standards.

Confluence Watersports retains the right to satisfy warranty via repair or replacement of products or of components deemed defective. In addition, Mad River Canoe reserves the right to replace original canoes or equipment with comparable current products.

## LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

This limited warranty does not apply to:

- Normal wear and tear and aging of product.
- Canoes damaged by extreme weather or environmental conditions.
- Canoes damaged while in possession of a freight carrier, a dealer, Consumer, or any party other than Mad River Canoe.
- Canoes damaged by accident, neglect, improper use or handling.
- Canoes that have been towed by power or sail boats.
- Canoes designated as Prototypes.
- Canoes sold as “demos” or in “as is” condition.
- Canoes determined to have been used for any activity other than an activity which is customary for the product.
- Canoes that have been structurally or dimensionally altered or modified.
- Canoes used for commercial or rental purposes.

This limited warranty excludes all other warranties, expressed or implied, including implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, with regard to Mad River Canoe. Some state, country, or provincial laws do not allow the exclusion of certain implied warranties, so the above exclusion may not apply to you.

This limited warranty excludes any incidental or consequential damages or expenses resulting from any defects. Confluence Watersport’s aggregate liability shall be limited to an amount equal to Consumer’s original purchase price paid for the defective product. Some state, country, or provincial laws do not allow the exclusion or limitation of

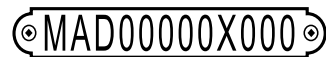
incidental or consequential damages, so the above exclusion may not apply to you.

To the extent any limitation or exclusion contained herein is contrary to any country, state, or provincial law, such limitation or exclusion shall be severable and all other terms herein shall remain in full force and effect and are valid and enforceable.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights. For Consumers who are covered by state, country or provincial consumer protection laws or regulations, the benefits from this warranty are in addition to all rights conveyed by such consumer protection laws and regulations.

## FINDING YOUR SERIAL NUMBER

Your canoe’s serial number is stamped on a brass plate or inscribed on the right side of the stern under the gunwale. You should record the serial number in the space provided on the last page of this manual for future reference. Your serial number is essential to reclaim a lost or stolen canoe, or to register and obtain warranty service.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BOAT MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF PURCHASE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEALER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PROVINCE/STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## SERVICE & SUPPORT

If you have a problem with your canoe that you believe is covered under warranty, contact the nearest Authorized Mad River Canoe Dealer. You can find a listing of all dealers on our website.

**If you have additional questions about your canoe or accessories, please visit our online support webpage at [www.madrivercanoe.com](http://www.madrivercanoe.com) for resources or to find information on contacting a customer service representative.**

## CONTACT US

Phone: 888-52-KAYAK (888) 525-2925  
Fax: (888) 373-1220

Service and support hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST.

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