

ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
RAFTS
USER
MANUAL



rockymountainrafts.com

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WELCOME



Welcome to **#teamRMR**

As boaters, we believe that time on the river provides an opportunity to live life to the fullest. Whether you are enjoying time with friends and family, solitude on a fishing trip, or the thrills of Class V whitewater, your Rocky Mountain Raft is a foundation for whatever adventure you choose. To make sure your boat stands up to the challenges, we have provided guidelines on how to best use and maintain your boat for years to come.

INCLUDED WITH YOUR ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAFT



Boat bag



Repair kit

PVC patches for different areas of the boat
One tube of glue



Valve wrench

SAFETY ADVISORY



Read the Owner's Manual associated with this product before use.

- ▶ Paddlesports can be physically demanding and inherently dangerous.
- ▶ The use of this product and participating in paddlesports may involve the risk of serious injury or death.
- ▶ The use of this product acknowledges both an understanding and an assumption of the risk involved in paddlesports.

SAFETY STANDARDS



- ▶ Use and observe all safety instructions specific to this product.
- ▶ Check your equipment prior to use for signs of wear or failure.
- ▶ Never paddle alone, and do not exceed your paddling ability.
- ▶ Be aware of appropriate water levels, dangerous currents and weather conditions.
- ▶ Scout unfamiliar water and portage where appropriate.
- ▶ Dress appropriately for weather conditions. Cold water/weather can cause hypothermia, injury or death.
- ▶ Obtain certified river rescue and first aid training. Keep first aid and safety equipment on hand.
- ▶ Consult a physician before you begin your paddlesport training or activities.
- ▶ Do not paddle under the influence of alcohol or mind-impairing substances.
- ▶ When using additional outfitting products, use manufacturer-approved materials only.

GETTING STARTED

Taking Care of Your Raft

Before each trip on the river, check your boat and equipment for wear and tear. Wear on the raft itself can look like discolorations in the material, a change of texture in the material or any issue pertaining to air tightness (leaks, pinholes, the sound of escaping air, etc.). Address any issues prior to starting your voyage.

What to Avoid

- ▶ Storage in direct sun / excessive UV exposure
- ▶ Extremely high temperatures, which can cause damage to PVC. Storage under a tarp without ventilation creates a solar oven situation and could cause material to degrade
- ▶ Harsh chemicals
- ▶ Sharp objects
- ▶ High friction / high heat / abrasive surfaces
- ▶ Applying high DEET bug spray or sunscreen on or near the boat
- ▶ Storage in areas accessible to animals, rodents, or pests

INFLATING YOUR RAFT

Before you begin inflating your raft, it is important to close the valves to prevent air from escaping.

To close the valves, unscrew valve cap, then press and turn center pin until it releases and springs toward you. To open the valves, press the center pin in, then turn clockwise until it stays in the open position.

Begin inflating each chamber in perimeter tube, but only fill to about 75% air capacity until all the remaining chambers are filled. Once each chamber is filled to 75% capacity, you can continue back around until all chambers reach full capacity. It is important to avoid putting too much pressure on an internal baffle (moveable bulkhead in between each chamber) as it will result in decreased performance and increases the chance of blowing an internal seam. If the boat looks deformed at any point, stop and release air from the overinflated chambers.

When you inflate the floor, add air until you reach the recommended PSI. If you have an I-beam floor, inflate until the pressure relief valve (PRV) is activated, then release a small amount of air from the floor to decrease pressure on the PRV and prolong your boat's life. If you have a dropstitch floor, fill to your desired stiffness. We recommend 7 psi, but the pressure should not exceed 10 psi. Our dropstitch floors do not use a pressure relief valve (PRV).

Make sure to depressurize the floor on hot days and after use, as there is no pressure relief valve on a drop-stitch floor.

COSMETICS

Starting out, your boat probably has several creases that may alter the color of its PVC material. Don't be alarmed. PVC is a stiff material, and it will take some time for any creases to fully come out. Fully inflating the raft and letting sunlight warm the material can help lift the creases more quickly, but feel free to use the boat with the marks since they are only cosmetic and will not impact your boat's performance.

In the unlikely event your boat is misshapen when you inflate it, deflate the raft immediately and inflate it. If the problem persists, send pictures to sales@rockymountainrafts.com or give us a call at **888.785.1844 ext 1**.

RECOMMENDED PSI



Tube PSI: **3**

I-beam floor PSI: **2.5**

Drop-stitch floor PSI: **7**

I-beam floors are designed to provide flotation, displace water and help the raft track better. The floor is one single chamber, split into smaller chambers that are separated by PVC I-beam bulkheads that provide rigidity, keep the floor from ballooning up, and give it a ribbed look.

WHICH END IS THE FRONT OF THE BOAT?

From a performance perspective, your boat is symmetrical and either end could function as the front or rear. In general, paddlers tend to glue foot cups onto the floor at the end that does not have floor valves and set the end with floor valves as the rear. People who use a rowing frame may find placing the floor valve in the front of the boat allows them easier access to the valves.

WHAT ARE BAFFLES?

Inside of each raft is a series of air chambers, separated by PVC dividers. Boats are built this way as a safety measure, so that if there is a hole in one area of the boat, the entire boat will not deflate. The chambers are important as they will allow the boat to continue to float. Because the baffles are inside the boat, they are incredibly difficult and expensive to repair. Make sure that you do not put too much pressure in a single chamber, as it could lead to significant internal damage.

VALVES

**See page 2 on using valves*

Dirt and debris may cause a valve to not seal properly. If your valves do not fully seal, you need to clean them. To test if the valve needs to be tightened, cover the valve with soapy water and watch where bubbles arise. If bubbles come from the center of the valve, you will need to clean the valve; if the bubbles come from the outsides of the valve, the valve may need to be tightened or realigned.

To quickly clean your valves, you can spray the valve caps with 303® Aerospace Protectant. Allow the cleaner to soak into the valve itself. Open and close the valve to flush the mechanism.

If doing this process several times does not solve the leaking valve, you should disassemble the valve and clean it with dish soap and water. Deflate the boat and use the enclosed valve wrench to unscrew the top of the valve. Be sure that you keep the interior portion of the valve close to the hole in the boat to make reinstallation easy. After cleaning, finish by applying 303 to the rubber seal to revitalize it.

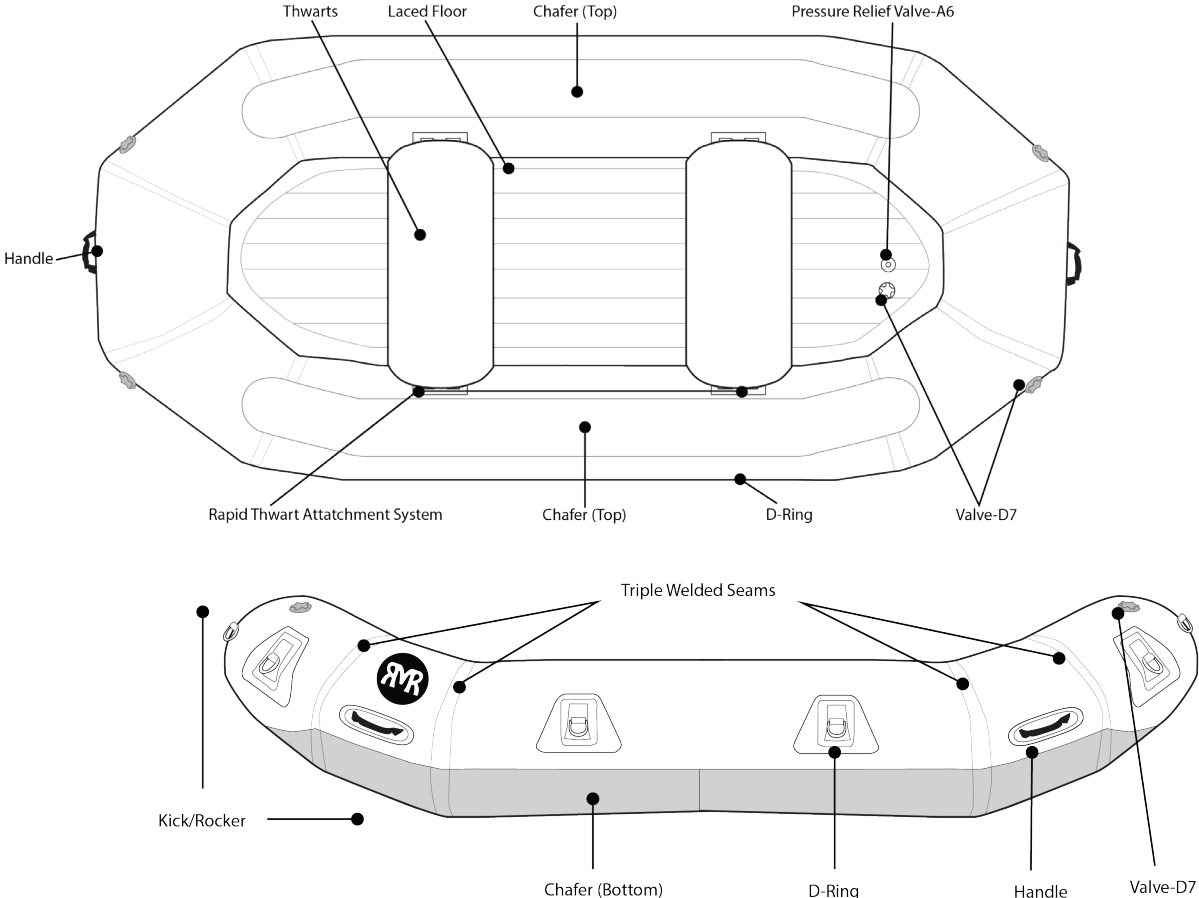
Finally, if you have problems with valves continuing to leak, email sales@rockymountainrafts.com or give us a call for further maintenance advice or warranty steps.

THWART ADJUSTMENT

Thwarts are designed to reinforce the structure of your boat and are often used by paddlers to help anchor themselves into the boat while paddling through rapids. Your boat may have adjustable thwart attachments to help you and your crew find the most comfortable position. The thwart pin will slide through both slots on the tube and the slot on the thwart. After sliding the pin into place, tie the string to ensure that the pin does not come loose.

FLOOR SWAPS

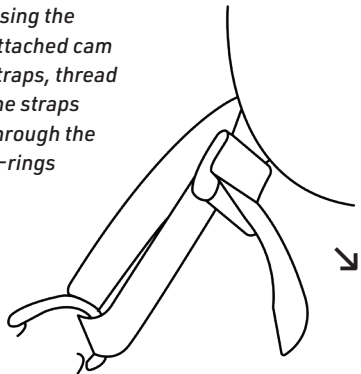
Self-bailing (SB) and self-bailing drop stitch (SBDS) floors are NOT interchangeable. Because the floors displace water differently, they are mounted to the outer tube at different heights. Additionally, the grommets to lace your floor to the boat will not line up with a different floor. If you need to replace a floor, send your serial number to sales@rockymountainrafts.com.



IK SEAT INSTALL

Each inflatable kayak comes with an inflatable backrest. To install, start with the outside tubes inflated and the floor and backrest deflated. Ensure the valve on the backrest faces the back of the boat. Using the attached cam straps, thread the strap through the d-rings (see diagram). Once the straps are attached, you can adjust the lengths of the front and back straps to find the most comfortable paddling position.

Using the attached cam straps, thread the straps through the d-rings



ROLLING YOUR BOAT

As you prepare to roll your boat, find a sunny area that's as free of debris and sand as possible. It's also nice to air dry or towel dry your boat as much as possible. Next, deflate your boat by fully opening the valves. Once the boat is mostly deflated, fold the boat from side to side in thirds so the side tubes each cover the floor. Also, take note of where the floor valve is located. Force all of the air that you can out by laying on the boat. This may take more than one person. A handheld shop vacuum is also a good way to get all the air out of the chambers. At this point, take the bow or end without the floor valve and fold it in half toward the floor valve so that all the valves are at one end. If you have a new boat, you may be able to see the creases from when the boat was boxed. Those folds will be a good model for how to roll the boat in the future. Starting from the end with the fold, roll the boat towards the valves. This should press the remaining air out of the tubes and give you a tighter roll. Be sure that you let your boat dry before you put it in storage. The water inside a rolled boat can cause mold and other issues.

WARNING



PVC material is the most susceptible to wear and tear while it is deflated. **DO NOT DRAG** your craft while it is deflated. Be sure that you keep your deflated raft away from sharp objects and abrasive surfaces. We recommend keeping the raft in the boat bag that came with it or wrapping it in a tarp or protective cover.

TRANSPORTATION

Always inspect the area and surface you are transporting your boat on for sharp edges or debris. Ensure all items are removed from the boat before rolling. If you choose to transport your boat while inflated, be sure to protect it by slightly deflating each chamber. Boats on roof racks and trailers can experience pressure changes from the sun and elevation that can stress the tubes.

MATERIAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Keeping your raft clean will help prevent wear and extend the life of your boat. Before rolling or storing your boat, wipe off water and debris. To wash your boat, use a mild soap and water. Do not use heavy solvents. For difficult stains, you may use a Magic Eraser pad. It is recommended to use **303® Aerospace Protectant** on a damp cloth to keep your boat clean, shiny and protected. 303 serves as a UV protectant and also a barrier to grime. At a minimum, coat your boat with 303 before storing for the winter or other extended periods of time. Ideally, coat your boat with 303 Protectant every three months.

STORAGE

The best way to store your raft is with it partially inflated and suspended above the ground. If space is an issue you can still store your boat rolled. **Make sure your boat is completely dry before you roll and store it to prevent mold.** You'll want to make sure you store your boat in its boat bag to ensure that it stays protected from any elements or rodents and other pests.

IMPORTANT



Do not store your boat in direct sunlight, as the UV light will cause the material to break down. Do not store your boat under a tarp in the sun; excessive heat will decrease the life of your raft. You should always store your boat in a cool, dry space.

TUBES

Our river tubes do not use a Leaffield Valve. They use a smaller valve. If your pump does not work with the valve, we sell an adapter so that you can use whatever pump you currently have. We recommend inflating your river tube to 3 PSI.

Our tubes are meant for river use and should not be used as a towable. If you are connecting tubes, use the d-rings and not the handles, as the d-rings are more durable.










TROUBLESHOOTING LEAKS

If you suspect your boat has a leak, lay it out on a clean surface and fully inflate it to the recommended PSI. Fill a spray bottle with soapy water and fully spray the boat from one end to the other. You will notice bubbles surfacing at the location of the leak. If the leak is in the PVC material, refer to **pg 10**. If the leak is located in the valve, refer to the valve section on **pg. 5**.

USING GLUE

While welded seams and patches are stronger, glue is still the most flexible solution for most boat repairs. Enclosed in your emergency patch kit is a small tube of glue that can quickly patch a pinhole or small tear in your boat temporarily.

In addition to the material provided in your kit, you should strongly consider keeping the following with your repair kit:

-  1/4 pint Stabond, 2-part adhesive
-  Scissors or knife
-  Small paintbrush
-  Roller
-  MEK solvent
-  Towel
-  Duct tape
-  Old toothbrush
-  Popsicle stick or tongue depressor

GLUE REPAIR

1. Locate the hole in the boat and access that area of the boat.
2. Using a towel, dry the area to be worked on.
3. Cut a patch of fabric at least two inches larger in length and width than the puncture, hole or tear.
4. Clean the area to be patched (using MEK or alcohol prep pads).
5. Rough up both the patch and the area to be patched with sandpaper.
6. After opening the 2-part adhesive, prepare the Stabond™ glue by pouring the entire contents of the glass jar into the metal can. Stir using a Popsicle stick or tongue depressor.
7. Apply an even coat of glue with a small brush to both the patch and the area to be repaired and let dry completely, approximately 10-15 minutes.
8. Apply a second coat of glue and let dry for 5 minutes or until tacky. If the glue is too dry, dampen with a small amount of cleaner.
9. Place the patch over the hole or tear and press together. Using a roller or another blunt object, press from the center of the patch to the edges to seal the patch to the boat surface. Make sure the patch seals completely and is without bubbles.
10. Let the glue cure at least one hour before inflating (overnight is best, if possible). Do not inflate to full pressure on the same day of the repair.

If you have a major rip or tear in your boat that is beyond your abilities to repair, please contact Rocky Mountain Rafts at sales@rockymountainrafts.com for a list of our authorized repair centers. All shipping charges to and from the repair facility will be the responsibility of the owner.

BOAT REGISTRATION

In certain states, boat owners will need to register their boat with the state. Email sales@rockymountainrafts.com with your serial number, date of purchase and home address for a Certificate of Origin.

WARRANTY

NOTE

The warranty does not transfer if the raft is sold to a second owner.

This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 5 years from the date of purchase for the original owner for non-commercial use. Issues determined to be strictly cosmetic, such as small air bubbles on top and bottom chafers, are not covered under this warranty. Please register your boat upon purchase by emailing warrantyreg@rockymountainrafts.com.

Rocky Mountain Rafts reserves the right to determine whether to repair or replace any product covered by this warranty and the right to replace any discontinued models with current models when necessary. Colors may vary between original and replacement parts.

Shipping charges to and from the repair facility are not covered under this warranty.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAFTS FIVE YEAR WARRANTY



What this Warranty Covers: The Five (5) Year warranty covers private boaters from defects in materials and workmanship. This warranty covers the tubes, fabric, D-ring patches and valves to be functional and water-worthy.

What this Warranty Does Not Cover:

- ▶ This warranty can be voided if the boat is structurally altered or is subject to stress beyond the physical limits of the fabric and/or accessories.
- ▶ This warranty does not cover cosmetic damage or damage from wear, abrasion, excessive UV damage, abnormal abuse, neglect and/or inappropriate storage.

The Period of Coverage: Your boat is covered from the original purchase date for a period of five years. When the original proof of purchase is not available, we will use the date of manufacturing for a period of five years. Registering your boat or IK upon purchase will make this process easier for everyone.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAFTS COMMERCIAL THREE YEAR WARRANTY



What this Warranty Covers: The Three (3) Year warranty covers commercial outfitters and professional boaters from defects in materials and workmanship. This warranty covers the tubes, fabric, D-ring patches and valves to be functional and water-worthy.

What this Warranty Does Not Cover:

- ▶ This warranty can be voided if the boat is structurally altered or is subject to stress beyond the physical limits of the fabric and/or accessories.
- ▶ This warranty does not cover cosmetic wear, abrasion, excessive UV damage, abnormal abuse, neglect and/or inappropriate storage.

The Period of Coverage: Your boat is covered from the original purchase date for a period of three years. When the original proof of purchase is not available, we will use the date of manufacturing for a period of three years.

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Shop the full line of RMR's
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