

# WHY CHOOSE AN

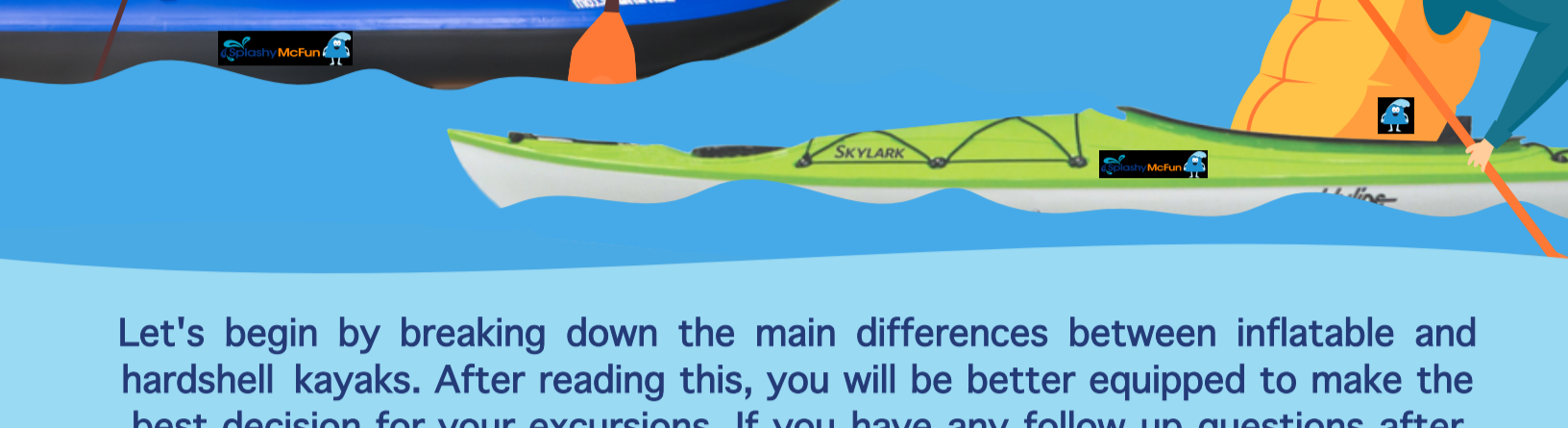
## Inflatable Kayak VS Hardshell Kayak



The kayaking bug has bitten you and you can't wait to get your own so you can explore the wilderness on the water. Before you take a leap into the unknown, you should know the amazing advantages of an inflatable kayak. If you're looking for a lightweight, price-efficient, and portable option, then an inflatable kayak is going to suit you well. Our guide breaks down the differences between inflatable and hardshell kayaks to show you which is superior and the best choice for you. Hard-shell kayaks have been the most popular kayak choice going back over the years; heck, they've been the only option most of the time! However, advancements in technology have led to very high-quality inflatable kayaks that are becoming the go-to choice.

### Breaking Down the Differences

## Inflatable Kayak VS Hardshell Kayak



Let's begin by breaking down the main differences between inflatable and hardshell kayaks. After reading this, you will be better equipped to make the best decision for your excursions. If you have any follow up questions after reading through this article, please don't hesitate to drop us a line.

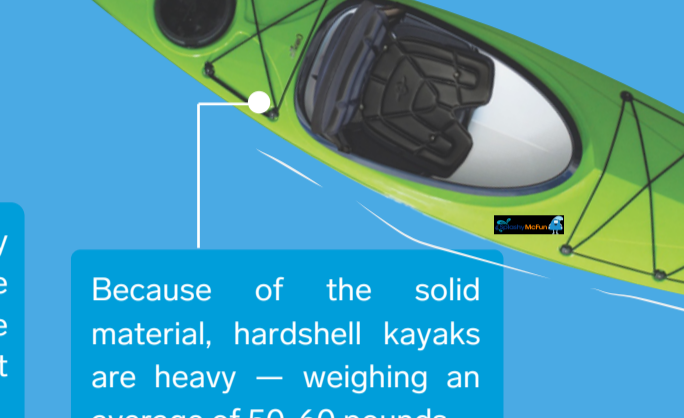
### Kayak Materials



Inflatable kayaks use the highest quality materials so that they are able to match the durability of traditional kayaks. The difference in material also makes inflatables weigh about half as much, averaging about 25 pounds.

#### Inflatable Kayaks are made of:

- Hypalon
- High-Grade PVC
- Nitrylon
- Neoprene



Because of the solid material, hardshell kayaks are heavy — weighing an average of 50-60 pounds.

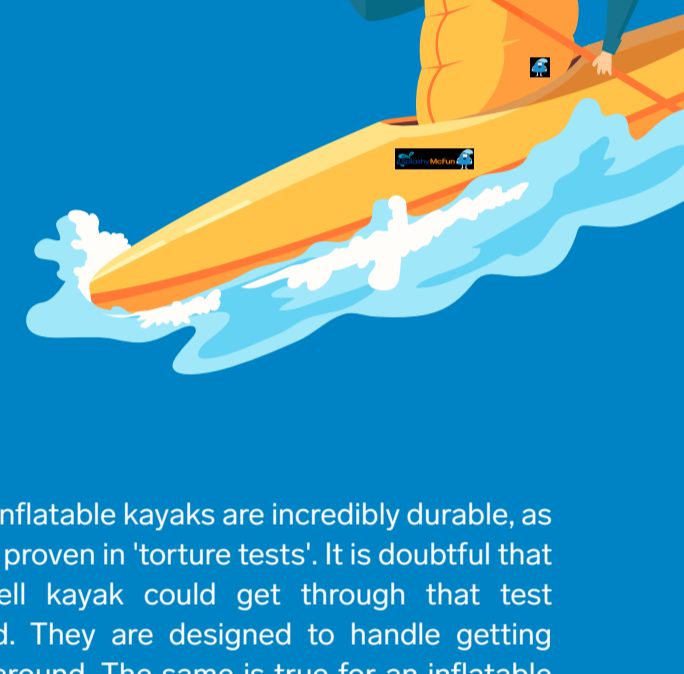
#### Traditional Kayaks are made of:

- Fiberglass
- Kevlar
- High-Density
- Polyethylene
- Wood
- Graphite
- Carbon Fiber
- Thermoform
- ABS

### Durability

At this point, you're probably certain that the solid materials of a hardshell kayak mean that it's much more durable. While hardshell kayaks are known to be sturdier and longer-lasting, modern inflatable kayaks are stepping up their game.

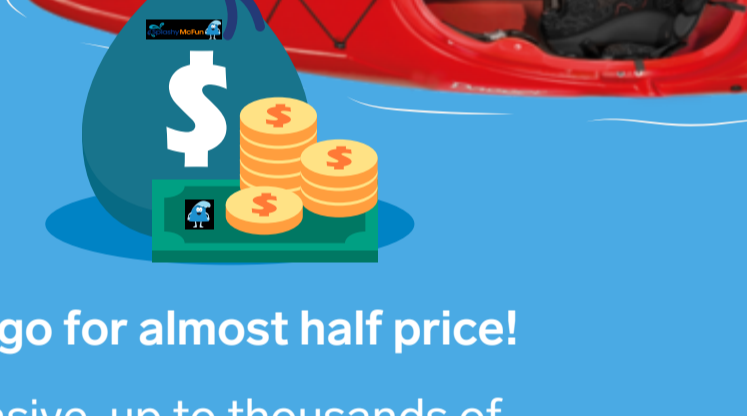
Hardshell kayaks are the most suitable for very rough water as they can smash against rocks and debris and keep going. With new advancements in inflatable kayaks, though, you can find yourself a tough and sturdy inflatable that is resilient and can handle some of those same tough conditions.



The best inflatable kayaks are incredibly durable, as they have proven in 'torture tests'. It is doubtful that a hardshell kayak could get through that test unscathed. They are designed to handle getting knocked around. The same is true for an inflatable fishing kayak that is built to withstand sharp points, hooks, knives, and tools.

While hardshell kayaks are quite durable regardless of the material, the most durable inflatable kayaks are mainly constructed out of: Hypalon, Top-Grade PVC, and Nitrylon. Both kinds of kayaks can endure abrasions from rocks and debris if they are high quality.

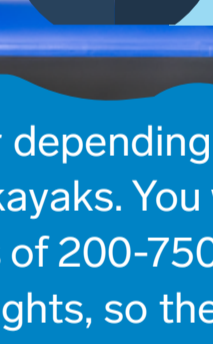
### Cost of a Kayak



For similar quality, inflatables go for almost half price!

Hardshell kayaks can be expensive, up to thousands of dollars, making the hobby inaccessible for a lot of people. You can find an amazing, high-quality inflatable kayak for much cheaper than a high-quality hardshell.

### Is There a Weight Capacity Difference?



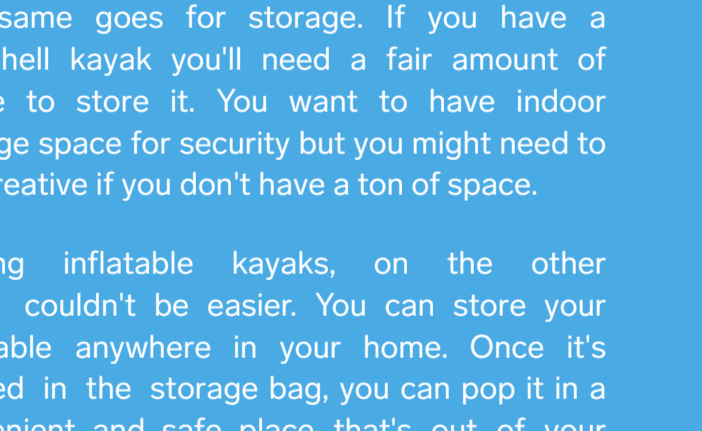
Normal Max Capacity  
**200 - 750 Pounds**

Weight capacity will differ depending on the size and specifications of both inflatable and hard shell kayaks. You will normally find that kayaks will have maximum weight capacities of 200-750 pounds. Both traditional and inflatable kayaks can hold similar weights, so there isn't really an advantage one way or the other. Just make sure that you double check the capacity before getting on the water. Most kayakers will tell you that an inflatable kayak is more stable with changes in weight distribution or when standing up.

### Kayaks Portability and Storage

This is where inflatable kayaks shine. It's unlikely that you live somewhere where you can pop your kayak into the water without transporting it.

Inflatables are easy to transport without the added hassle of roof racks and complicated maneuvering to load and unload the kayak. If you are hiking or camping and want to bring a kayak, inflatables are incredibly convenient. The portability of inflatable kayaks means that you can explore far and wide with your kayak and it's easy and fuss-free.

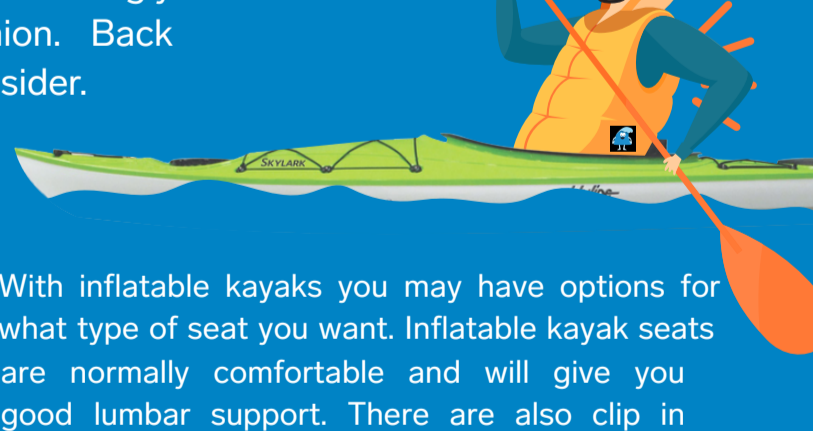


The same goes for storage. If you have a hardshell kayak you'll need a fair amount of space to store it. You want to have indoor storage space for security but you might need to get creative if you don't have a ton of space.

Storing inflatable kayaks, on the other hand, couldn't be easier. You can store your inflatable anywhere in your home. Once it's packed in the storage bag, you can pop it in a convenient and safe place that's out of your way. You just have to make sure to allow it to air dry before packing away.

### How Comfortable are Kayaks?

Hardshell kayaks can take a bit of a toll on your backside, as sitting on a hard surface for hours can do. Inflatables are much more comfortable in this regard as you're sitting on a soft, inflatable cushion. If your kayak seat has a hard surface we strongly recommend using some type of cushion. Back support is another important aspect to consider.



With inflatable kayaks you may have options for what type of seat you want. Inflatable kayak seats are normally comfortable and will give you good lumbar support. There are also clip in seats that attach to the d-rings which will provide you with additional back support. These kayak seats are normally made from a quality padded material such as the previously mentioned neoprene. Some of these seats are available with taller backrests for additional support.

Taking some time to consider seat options may help you make a decision. If you have back or joint problems you may find that an inflatable kayak is more comfortable.

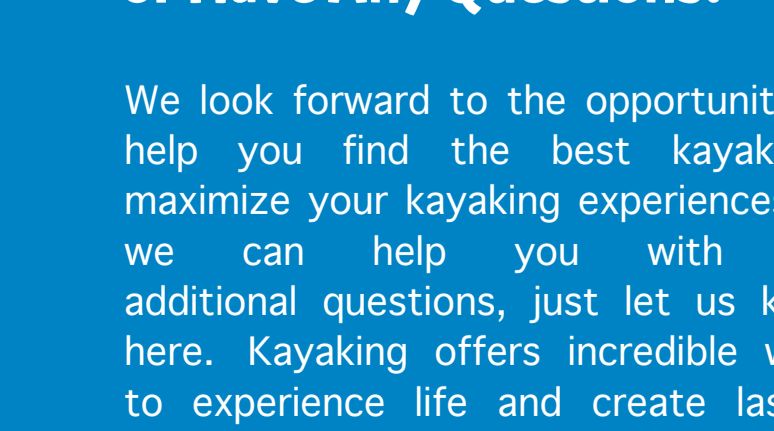
### Adventure With an Inflatable Kayak

After considering all of the options and looking at trends over the years, we are more inclined to buy an inflatable kayak for pretty much any kayaking adventure.

The benefits of inflatable kayaks are immense, offering you the opportunity to head off on any adventure with your durable, lightweight, and high performing kayak. For us, the ability to easily store your kayak and to be able to easily go on an adventure at a moment's notice breaks any ties in the hard-shell versus inflatable kayak debate.



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### Do You Need More Information or Have Any Questions?

We look forward to the opportunity to help you find the best kayak to maximize your kayaking experiences. If we can help you with any additional questions, just let us know here. Kayaking offers incredible ways to experience life and create lasting memories. We will help you get your adventure started!

We Will Help You Get Your Adventure Started!

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