

The contents of a canoe tripping repair kit may vary from just some duct tape and some luck (sometimes the duct tape is left out) to one that includes everything in this brochure, and more.

This brochure was written to assist you in deciding what to include in your repair kit; but it is not THE KIT. When deciding what to include in your kit, examine your gear and equipment and consider what could possibly break or malfunction and be sure that you have the necessary materials, tools, knowledge and skills to make the repairs.

In General

The better the gear, the fewer the repairs; the more care you take in its use, the fewer the repairs; and the fewer people using it, the fewer the repairs. (This is why you should check rented gear very carefully before using it.)

Even new good quality gear and equipment breaks and malfunctions. Putting a hole in your canoe (while paddling or portaging), breaking a pack strap or buckle, tearing the mosquito netting on your tent, or splitting your spare paddle are not only inconveniences on a canoe trip, but may cause you to compromise safety. The repair of your gear and equipment becomes more and more important as the length of your canoe trip increases. Be prepared for the inconvenience and have a safe canoe trip.

A Starter List

Some items that you might include in your repair kit:

- Swiss army knife or other functional knife with a variety of tools attached
- screw driver with assorted bits to match screws in your gear and equipment
- vise grip pliers (small)
- needle-nosed pliers
- file, stone and oil
- folding or “string” saw
- sand paper (medium and fine)
- steel wool
- sewing kit (awl, needles, threads, thimble, scissors, & a few pieces of material)
- screws, bolts, nuts, D-rings, etc. to replace those in your gear and equipment
- patching kits that come with mattress, tent, etc.
- canoe hull repair kit **
- spare stove parts, leather, & fuel bottle gasket
- wire (bailing, snare, stove, or picture)
- parachute cord & heavy string
- clevis pins (for external frame packs)
- safety pins (assorted sizes)
- spare flashlight bulb & batteries
- duct tape (good quality)
- electrical tape
- epoxy (5 minute)
- contact cement
- seam sealer
- cord locks
- Fastex buckles
- waterproof matches/lighter
- pen or pencil & paper
- plastic freezer bags
- nylon webbing
- fire starter
- candle

** This will vary depending on the material of the canoe, the extent of the damage, and how permanent a repair has to be made. You can do some pretty extensive repairs with duct tape, screws, bolts, nuts, parachute cord, and wire, but you may want more. If you wish to take a more elaborate canoe hull repair kit, discuss the materials and repair procedures with your canoe supplier.

Stocking Your Kit

This may seem like a lot of stuff to include in a repair kit, but as stated before, you probably don’t need all of the items listed; you select those that you deem necessary to repair your gear and equipment. Some of these things may be included elsewhere in your gear.

- Examine all of your gear and equipment, consider what could possibly go wrong, and make a list of materials and tools that would be required to make the repairs. You now have a list of the basic ingredients of your repair kit
- Repeat the above procedure whenever you get new gear and equipment or use someone else’s.
- Whatever repair items you decide to put into your kit, store everything in a waterproof container.
- Remember to take your repair kit with you on every trip: no matter how good the kit is, it will do you no good if it is at home.

Choosing Equipment

Buy or rent the best quality gear and equipment you can afford. Unfortunately, we often only look at the initial cost of the item and not its reliability. When buying equipment, consider the following:

- Is it suited to the purpose?
- What is the manufacturer’s warranty?
- How difficult or easy is it to get repairs done under the terms of the guarantee or warranty?
- How good is the material and workmanship?
- What could possibly go wrong with it and can it be fixed in the field?

Preventive Maintenance

- Clean and dry all gear and equipment before storing between trips.
- Make any necessary permanent repairs to the gear and equipment before storing it. It's easier to do these when cleaning and drying after a trip than it is during the flurry of activity that usually occurs the night before the next trip.
- Replenish and/or revise your repair kit regularly. At least replace items used before the next trip.
- Attempt to keep your gear and equipment as clean and dry as possible on the trip. Grit, dust, and moisture will not only cause your stove and zippers to malfunction, but will abrade and rot materials; reliability and life span of items will be significantly increased with care.
- Many field repairs done with care, knowledge, and skill, will be permanent. If you intend to do a temporary repair in the field and the permanent repair at home, don't increase the damage while making the temporary repair so that it becomes difficult or impossible to make the permanent repair.

The Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association (ORCKA) promotes the development of safe, competent and knowledgeable recreational paddlers.

ORCKA has developed standards and instruction programs in introductory canoeing, Canadian style paddling, canoe tripping, river running and moving water canoeing and canoe tripping. ORCKA has also developed a dynamic kayaking program covering introductory kayaking, coastal kayaking, moving water kayaking and kayak tripping. From beginning paddlers to expert instructors, the ORCKA paddling Programs are used throughout Ontario and recognised nationally.

Take a canoeing or kayaking course with one of the many organisations using the ORCKA programs.

Canoe Trip Repair Kit



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