
Kayaking the Tidal Salt Marsh

Equipment & Safety Protocols

WHAT KIND OF KAYAK SHOULD I BUY?

PLASTIC vs COMPOSITE

Advantages of Plastic:

- Plastic kayaks are more affordable than composite kayaks.
- They are easier to find and purchase, as they are the most widely used material of kayak construction (especially recreational models).
- Plastic is a very durable material, which means that it can handle adverse weather conditions such as rain and sun better than other materials used for boat manufacture.

Disadvantages of Plastic:

- The smoothness of plastic makes these boats slower in comparison to their fiberglass counterparts. Another side effect of this relative slowness is increased water resistance, resulting in a longer time needed to cover relatively short distances.
- This same lack of speed also renders them less efficient paddling on flat water when compared to other materials.

WHAT KIND OF KAYAK SHOULD I BUY?

PLASTIC vs COMPOSITE

Advantages:

- Composite kayaks are reinforced with fiberglass, which makes them stronger and lighter than plastic kayaks
- This allows them to be easily carried by one person when on land
- The combination of strength, lightweight, low cost, and easy portability make these boats great for novice users or those looking to take a quick excursion in a recreational model.

Disadvantages:

- Fiberglass provides less protection from the sun and other environmental hazards because it is not as smooth as plastic
- Composite kayaks are more expensive than their plastic counterparts. This can be attributed to the additional strengthening material used during construction that adds to the cost of the end product. Their relatively high costs may also result from a difficult production process compared to plastic models.

TYPES of KAYAKS

Touring

Light Touring

Sport

Sit on Top

Pedal Drive



TOURING KAYAK

Keyword: efficiency

Touring kayaks are the **longest** and **narrowest** of all flat-water kayaks. They are the most "efficient". In other words, more of the effort exerted through the paddle will transfer into moving the kayak versus strain on your body. They have cockpits designed to give you more contact and control of the boat. Touring kayaks have lots of gear storage and are shaped to handle a large variety of conditions. If you seek the easiest and best performing paddling experience, get a touring kayak. Priced from \$1100



LIGHT TOURING KAYAK

Lighten up!

What is a light touring kayak? A light touring kayak fits right in between a sport kayak and a touring kayak. A light touring kayak is a shorter and wider version of a touring kayak but longer than a sport kayak. This gives a light touring kayak the great features of both. It tracks well and has great stability. Priced from \$1500





SPORT KAYAK adventure ready

The sport kayak is a shorter, wider, kayak that allows for great maneuverability through the small creeks of our coastal marshes. It also has a larger cockpit that gives you easy entry and exit as well as a lot of room to move within the kayak. Sport kayaks are great for calmer waters and are usually lighter than their longer relatives.

Priced from \$1200

SIT ON TOP KAYAKS

versatile and user friendly

The sit on top kayak is a category of kayak that allows for water to drain out of the kayak making it a very user-friendly kayak as well as one that is well suited for most conditions. Often the choice of anglers, the sit on top is also a great kayak for those that live on the beach or anybody that wants a very versatile boat.

Priced from \$1400



PEDAL DRIVE KAYAKS fuggedabout the paddle



For fishing, pedal kayaks offer a tremendous advantage. They allow for fishing on the move and casting and reeling without the awkwardness of having a paddle across your lap. But peddle drive kayaks aren't just for fishing folk. If you have any range of motion issues that limit your ability to paddle, a peddle drive kayak will have you out exploring the marsh in no time!

Priced from \$1800

Paddles
PFD's
Safety Items
Other accessories



PADDLES

In general, the lighter and stiffer the paddle the more you'll enjoy paddling and the more often you'll go out. Materials determine the weight and stiffness with carbon, fiberglass and aluminum being the most common.

PFD's

A USCG approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) must be on each kayak and should be worn by each paddler. Your PFD should be comfortable and adjustable, allowing you to wear it with a wide range of clothing for different environments. Many are now made with mesh backs, making it cooler for the wearer.

SAFETY ITEMS

Each paddler is required to have a USCG approved noise making device. You should also have a paddle float, bilge pump and a paddle leash when kayaking.



OTHER ACCESSORIES

Depending on the type of kayaking you plan to do you may want some other accessories:

- Dry bag/box
 - Paddle holder
 - Anchor
 - Kayak trailer
 - Kayak wheels
 - Appropriate footwear
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FLOAT PLAN

- Describe your vessel, including its, length, make and color.
- Include the description and license plate of the vehicle driven to launch site.
- Give the number of paddlers, their names and addresses, and a contact in case of emergency.
- State where you are going, the detailed route, your planned departure time, and your expected return time. Include the location of all stopping points, dates, and times.
- Give the phone number for local authorities in case you fail to return when expected. If kayaking on waters under U.S. Coast Guard jurisdiction, give the phone number of the U.S. Coast Guard.

TIDES - recommended tide app TIDE CHARTS

- Low Tide Rising - abundant feeding activity, can limit range
- Mid Tide Rising - more range
- High Tide - access to high marsh environments

WIND and CURRENT - can impact route chosen and generate rough water.

WEATHER - NEVER go on the water when lightning is in the area. If a storm comes in quickly, get off the water immediately.

Know the Conditions



OUTSIDE HILTON HEAD FLAGSHIP STORE
50 Shelter Cove Lane between Whole Food and TJ Maxx
843.686.6996
Ask for Mark Wray
Online at shop [outside.com](https://www.outside.com)
