

[IN THE PACK]

Spring Cleaning

EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR CANOE WITH THESE STORAGE SECRETS

When you bring home a new boat, where do you put it? Leaving it on the soggy lawn to collect mold and earwigs isn't any way to treat your pride and joy. Proper storage of your canoe not only makes better use of your yard or garage's real estate—so you can bring home even more boats—it seriously prolongs the life of your canoe.

The best way to store your canoe is upside down in a dry place. Distribute the weight of your boat over racks or a cradle evenly to prevent the hull from deforming over time. Plastic hulls are the most susceptible to this, but fiberglass and wooden boats can fall victim over the years.

Most importantly, keep your canoe off the ground. In a pinch you can use rafters, sawhorses or a pair of wood blocks. If opting to hang your canoe, look for a cradle that uses wide webbing for support. Resist the temptation to hang your canoe by its front and rear decks, thwarts or carrying handles, which weren't manufactured to endure this stress long-term.

When storing in an unheated area, be aware Royalex has a faster rate of contraction in cold temperatures than wood, making wood-trimmed Royalex canoes susceptible to cracks where the trim is fastened to the hull. Extreme heat, from being stored next to a water heater or furnace, can also warp plastic and composite canoes.

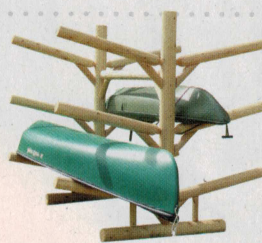
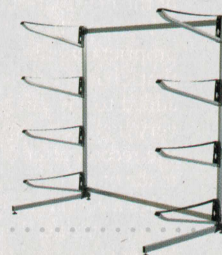
If storing your canoe on an outdoor rack, tie the canoe to the rack and anchor the rack securely. While a quality rack is sure to be sturdy enough, to weather a storm, a lightweight aramid canoe can easily become airborne on blustery days. Be aware that sunlight is your enemy, degrading plastic hulls, browning Kevlar and fading paint colors. Use a cover or durable tarp for outdoor storage. If using a tarp, suspend it above the canoe to maintain airflow, so that moisture doesn't rot wooden parts. Keep heavy snow off your canoe, which could crush the hull.

The best way to protect your canoe against theft is to keep it indoors. However, if storing your boats outside, use a security strap with a locking buckle and reinforced with cut-proof stainless steel to secure it. —KP

TOP STORAGE SYSTEMS

TALIC | BAYSIDE OUTDOOR STORAGE SYSTEM

The four-boat Bayside is a simple and stable system. Talic's first rack made of aluminum and stainless steel hardware is a no-nonsense freestanding outdoor rack that will brave decades of foul all-season weather. Kayaks and canoes, less than 32 inches wide, will rest easy. **\$719 | www.talic.com**

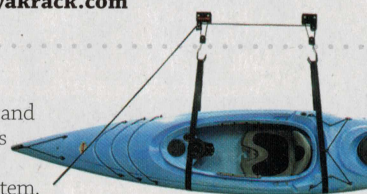


LOGKAYAKRACK.COM | 6-PLACE RACK

The handcrafted 6-Place Rack is certainly the most authentic rack around the office. It looks so woody down by the river and gets dragged to the garage for the winter. Made of hardy northern white cedar, with its wide base it has yet to be uprooted by a windstorm. It took our editors just an hour to assemble with a power drill and mallet, no chainsaw required. **\$864.99 | www.logkayakrack.com**

MALONE | DELUXE HOIST HAMMOCK

This overhead storage is perfect for keeping a canoe inside and out of the way. Super easy to install, the Hammock features an independent pulley control, self-locking brake and steel construction that creates a dependable two-point hoist system. **\$59.95 | www.maloneautoracks.com**



SUSPENZ | UNIVERSAL FLAT RACK

The Flat Rack wall mount uses a cradling strap system so there are never any pressure points on your boat, just a cozy hug. What we love best about this utilitarian set of arms is its versatility—customize spacing to the length of your boat, and stack sets for multi-boat storage. **\$79.95 | www.suspenzkayakstorage.com**

