



One reason my family and I have a cabin is to have access to the beautiful river just a hundred yards or so away. On every visit we spend some time paddling. But I must admit I don't look forward to the fall, or when I'm away from the cabin for an extended period of time. I know I have to find a way to store big and bulky pieces of plastic and fiberglass. And our cabin is on a tidal river with a large power dam upstream, so I am always nervous leaving these expensive boats on the beach for fear the water levels will rise enough to float them away.

Luckily, there are several boat racks on the market for storing kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs), both on the beach and over the winter.

### SHORELINE

Probably the most attractive option for boat and SUP storage is a log rack. **(1) Hitch Exclusives** manufactures racks from northern white cedar logs for a storage system that is both practical and beautiful. These racks are naturally weather resistant and will last for years even if untreated. Since a lot of cabin owners have a variety of boats and paddleboards, the company offers several styles ranging from single-boat racks to one that accommodates eight crafts. Custom-designed systems are also available.

### DOCKSIDE

A lot of cabin owners have docks, so for them a dock-mounted rack makes a lot of sense. To be able to safely store your equipment right at the water's edge is perfect.

**(2) DockCraft Industries** has a dockside rack that can hold kayaks, canoes and SUPs weighing up to 100 pounds each. The design has an easy-to-operate system that hinges the craft out of the water.

**(3) EZ Dock** also builds a dock-mounted rack system that keeps your equipment secure and out of the way, leaving the deck free of clutter. The company offers one- and two-boat options manufactured

# SMART STORAGE OPTIONS

Ideas for stowing kayaks, canoes and SUPs at the cabin

BY DOUG SCOTT

## DIY kayak rack

**A REASONABLY HANDY PERSON** can make his or her own rack. This design will only work in unfinished areas since it is connected directly to wall studs.

First, cut the horizontal support pieces from the 2x4. They should be about 2 inches longer than the width of the boat or board. Screw them to the wall studs at the desired height and width using two lag screws for each support piece.

Cut two more pieces of 2x4 about 18 inches long each. These will be elbow braces, so cut a 45° angle at both ends so that one side is longer than the other. Position the elbow brace so that one end is against the wall and the other is tight to the underside of the horizontal support. Screw one end of the elbow brace to the stud using two more of the lag screws. Screw the other end of the elbow to the underside of the support using a wood screw. Repeat with the other elbow brace.

This will give you a strong rack on which to place your kayak, canoe or paddleboard. The support pieces can be shortened to make a convenient holder for paddles or any other long and cumbersome gear.



Courtesy Doug Scott

### NEEDED

- One, 8-foot 2x4
- Eight, 5/16x2 1/2-inch lag screws
- Two, 8x1 3/4-inch wood screws
- A tape measure, miter saw, drill, level and a free afternoon



2

Courtesy DockCraft Industries



3

Courtesy EZ Dock



4

Courtesy Seattle Sports



5

Courtesy Suspenz

from marine aluminum, ensuring maintenance-free storage.

**Floe International** offers a third dock storage option with a straightforward rack made from PVC tubing for weather resistance.

## GARAGE

For those who often go the cartop route for moving their boats and boards, lifting them on and off the roof of the car can almost make you question whether it's worth the effort. Boats and boards are heavy and awkward, and having them slip and dent your car or knock a side mirror off is not unheard of. Not to mention the real possibility of a back strain. For you, a pulley hoist system would be a great addition to the garage.

Two companies that offer these products are **Harken** and **BAC Industries**. Both have well-designed systems that allow one person to lift a boat or SUP off the

roof of a car using just one rope. As an added safety feature, there is a self-locking cleat that engages if you drop the lifting line, ensuring the boat or board doesn't come crashing down on your vehicle.

With the end of the boating season comes the need to find a place to keep your equipment out of the weather, hopefully without commanding too much garage space.

**(4) Seattle Sports** sells J-shaped racks that bolt directly to walls. These metal racks are padded to help keep equipment from getting scratched or damaged.

**(5) Suspenz** offers a unique twist with its racks. The company has a standing rack system that sits on casters, allowing you to maneuver your entire fleet. This is a nice option when you need to reorganize your garage.

**(6) Surf to Summit's** racks come with hooks underneath, giving you





6

Courtesy Surf to Summit



7

Courtesy Talic



8

Courtesy Danuu Paddle Gear



9

Courtesy Kayak Covers of Charleston



10

Courtesy Lasso Security Cables

## SINCE YOU PROBABLY HAVE AT LEAST ONE PADDLE FOR EVERY BOAT, SAFE AND SECURE PADDLE STORAGE IS A NECESSITY.

a convenient place to hang your paddles or even a bike.

(7) **Talic** is another company with a wide range of boat and SUP storage options. In addition to boat and board racks, they have several styles of paddle racks. Since you probably have at least one paddle for every boat, safe and secure paddle storage is a necessity. Talic's wooden racks are as pretty as they are practical, so you are as much displaying your gear as storing it (maybe even inside the cabin).

### SAFE & SECURE

If your boat is stored outside, remember that it can suffer from everything the elements can throw at it, especially the harsh UV rays from bright sunlight. A cover for your equipment might be worth the investment. Two companies that sell kayak, canoe and SUP bags in a variety of sizes are (8) **Danuu Paddle Gear** and (9) **Kayak Covers of Charleston**.

It's probably true that most of us don't spend as much time at our cabins as we would like, and that they are often empty for long periods of time. During these absences, it is nice to know that gear is secure. Several companies sell cable locks that are the perfect length for locking up boats and boards. A good gear lock needs to have a long cable, be rugged, and be made from top quality material to withstand harsh marine environments. Three

companies that sell good quality cable locks are (10) **Lasso Security Cables, Thule and Seattle Sports**.

Kayaks, canoes and paddleboards can bring us hours of enjoyment, but if it's too much trouble to get them in and out of the water, they often stay put. A convenient storing system that allows us easy access to them will often be the difference between having a great day exploring your area's waterways or simply spending another day on the beach. ■

*Doug Scott is a community college instructor, but he can often be found launching his boat at the family cabin on the St. John River in Canada.*

### RESOURCES

- Hitch Exclusives, LLC, [www.logkayakrack.com](http://www.logkayakrack.com)
- DockCraft Industries, LLC, [www.dockcraft.com](http://www.dockcraft.com)
- EZ Dock, Inc., [www.ez-dock.com](http://www.ez-dock.com)
- Floe International, [www.floeintl.com](http://www.floeintl.com)
- Harken, Inc., [www.harken.com](http://www.harken.com)
- BAC Industries, Inc., [www.bacindustries.com](http://www.bacindustries.com)
- Seattle Sports Co., [www.seattlesportscos.com](http://www.seattlesportscos.com)
- Suspenz, Inc., [www.suspenzkayakstorage.com](http://www.suspenzkayakstorage.com)
- Surf to Summit, [www.surftosummit.com](http://www.surftosummit.com)
- Talic, Inc., [www.talic.com](http://www.talic.com)
- Danuu Paddle Gear, Inc., [www.danuu.com](http://www.danuu.com)
- Kayak Covers of Charleston, [www.kayakcoversofcharleston.com](http://www.kayakcoversofcharleston.com)
- Lasso Security Cables, [www.lassosecuritycables.com](http://www.lassosecuritycables.com)
- Thule, [www.thule.com](http://www.thule.com)