

PERFORMING A LEAK TEST ON A KAYAK IS CRUCIAL TO ENSURE IT'S WATERTIGHT AND SAFE FOR USE.

HERE'S A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO HELP YOU DETECT ANY LEAKS

Method 1: The Water Fill Test (For Sit-On-Top Kayaks & Hatches)

Best for detecting leaks in sealed compartments.

- 1. Prepare Your Kayak:** Place the kayak on level ground or an elevated surface where it can drain easily.
- 2. Seal the Drain Plug:** Make sure the drain plug is securely closed.
 - **Fill with Water:** Pour water into the kayak's hull or hatch compartments (about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ full).
 - Avoid overfilling, as too much weight can make it hard to manage.
 - **Check for Leaks:** Look underneath and around the kayak for any water dripping out.
 - Pay close attention to seams, scupper holes, and fittings.
 - **Drain Completely:** If no leaks are found, empty the water and dry the kayak before storage.
 - If leaks are detected, mark the spot for repair.

Warning: Do not use this method for inflatable kayaks!

Method 2: The Soapy Water & Air Pressure Test

Best for detecting small leaks, especially in inflatable kayaks.

- 1. Mix Soapy Water:** Combine dish soap with water in a spray bottle.
- 2. Inflate the Kayak (For Inflatables):** Pump air into the kayak to its normal pressure.
 - **Spray the Soapy Solution:** Apply the solution around valves, seams, and suspected leak areas.
 - **Look for Bubbles:** If you see bubbles forming continuously, there's a leak.
 - **Mark and Repair:** Mark the leak location and patch it accordingly.

Method 3: The Submersion Test (For Small Kayaks & Inflatable Kayaks)

Best for checking multiple areas at once.

- 1. Find a Pool or Calm Water:** A large tub, swimming pool, or shallow lake works well.
- 2. Partially Submerge the Kayak:** Hold or weigh it down underwater, ensuring air remains inside the hull.
- 3. Look for Air Bubbles:** Air escaping from the kayak means there's a leak.
- 4. Mark and Repair:** Identify the leak and fix it using an appropriate sealant or patch.

COMMON LEAK POINTS TO CHECK

- Scupper holes (on sit-on-top kayaks)
- Drain plugs & hatches
- Welded seams (for inflatables)
- Screw holes from accessories (rod holders, mounts, etc.)
- Rudder or skeg attachment points

HOW TO FIX A LEAK?

- Use marine-grade sealant (like Flex Seal or silicone) for minor leaks.
- Apply plastic welding for polyethylene kayaks.
- Use a patch repair kit for inflatable kayaks.