



## OWNER'S MANUAL

# **SI10 Sit-in Kayak And SO10 Sit-on Kayak**

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group®  
4855 Broadmoor SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-5360  
1-800-552-6287  
[www.jowatercraft.com](http://www.jowatercraft.com)

**November, 2003**

**Thank you for purchasing this pedal boat from  
Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group.**

Your Kayak is the result of years of design, manufacturing and material improvements. It clearly represents the best value available and is designed to provide you and your family with many years of fun.

This Owner's Manual provides the key information on its use and care. If you have additional questions, or would like to learn about kayak accessories, pedal boats, fishing boats, canoes, dinghies, electric deck boats and the other fine products we offer, please contact us:

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group  
Customer Service  
4855 Broadmoor S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-5360  
1-800-552-6287, [www.jowatercraft.com](http://www.jowatercraft.com)

At Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group, we hope you enjoy this kayak for many years to come, and use it to make a lifetime of memories.

Happy boating,

Sandra L. Spielmaker  
*President*, Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group

## Warranty

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group warrants its manufactured products to be free of material defects subject to the following time limitations and use exclusions.

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group warrants the hull and deck of each new kayak to be free of material and manufacturing defects for a period of two (2) years from the date of retail sale. All other component parts and accessories are warranted for a period of one (1) year or are warranted for the period specified by their original manufacturer, whichever is less.

Under this warranty, Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group is limited to the repair or replacement of the components as defined above. *Transportation to and from an authorized repair facility is the responsibility of the purchaser.* Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group shall not be held liable for incidental, consequential costs such as registration fees, or other damages resulting from defects in warranted components.

This warranty does not extend to or apply to any product that is used for rental or other commercial use, nor products that are damaged from abuse, neglect, accident, normal wear or repairs made by unauthorized repair facilities or individuals.

There are no warranties either expressed or implied which extend beyond those defined in this statement. This warranty only applies to the original purchaser and is nontransferable.

To verify date of purchase, please return the product registration card within 30 days. Also please retain your original purchase receipt.

**Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft,  
Sport & Leisure Group**

**November 2003**

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Remember that to steer a kayak you must be going either faster or slower than the current

**Always make sure that you are wearing the proper Personal Flotation Device (life jacket). ExtraSport® company offers a full line of high quality PFD's that are widely available. Contact Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group if you have questions.**

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## MATERIAL CHECKLIST

Upon delivery of your kayak you should receive:

1. Warranty registration card. Please read and complete the registration card and mail it to Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group, 4855 Broadmoor SE, Kentwood, MI 49512
2. Owner's Manual and Statement of Warranty (back page)
3. Manufacturer's Statement of Origin. You will need this certificate if you are required to register your boat.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of your kayak, including the camouflage series, is very easy. Keep the surfaces clean by washing them with a mild detergent and water. If necessary, use may use a very soft bristle brush to help remove caked-on dirt. Do not use Armour-All® or other plastic conditioner products. They can discolor, and even weaken, the plastic.

If the kayak should develop a hole, a patch must be applied by *plastic welding*. Glues and adhesives will not adhere permanently to the polyethylene hull. For more information about this process, please contact Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group.

## SAFETY PROCEDURES

Be sure to check the current weather and forecast prior to departure. High wind will create rough water that will impede your progress and make it difficult to return to shore.

When paddling in rivers and streams, stick to the smoothest and deepest channel of the stream. Avoid obvious disturbances in the water; they are a sure sign of an underwater obstacle.

Always try to avoid overhanging trees and limbs. They are often encountered along bends in the streams and rivers. The current will try to carry you along the outside of the bend, so additional steering may be required.

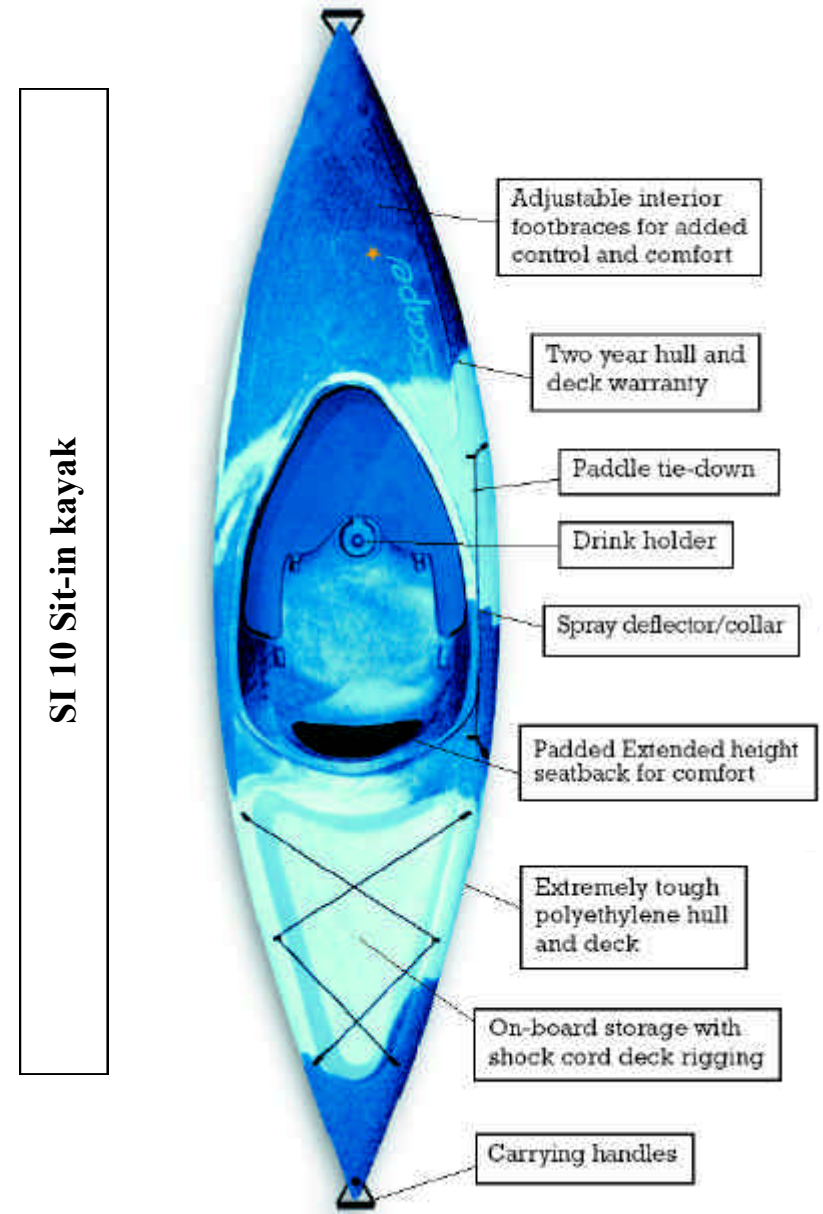
## Sit-in Kayak Spray Skirt

A spray skirt is an optional accessory that is invaluable if you get caught in rough seas, heavy rain or river rapids. The skirt stretches tightly around the spray collar. The upper perimeter of the “tube” fits around your chest and is tightened with a draw cord. Properly installed, a spray skirt will shed all but a tiny amount from waves and rain that wash over the deck. It will not necessarily be 100% waterproof but certainly will vastly increase the seaworthiness of the kayak under very adverse conditions.

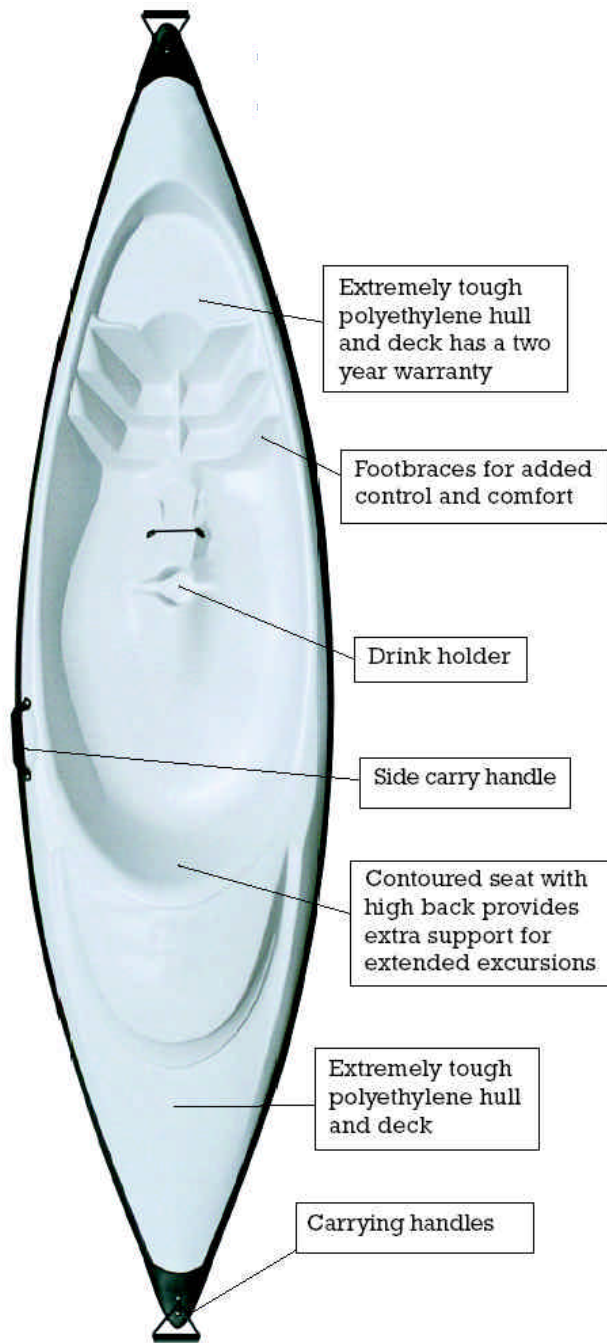
## STORAGE

Kayaks should be stored on edge, upside down, standing on end or hanging horizontally by straps or slings out of the sun. When hanging the boats, run straps around the boat near the cockpit. **Storing the boat bottom side down may cause distortion.** Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group blends an added measure of ultraviolet inhibitors into the plastic of your kayak to give superior protection from ultraviolet light. However, to reduce the effects of weathering, avoid storing the boat in direct sunlight.

In cold weather, your kayak should be sheltered from the weight of snow. The plastic will be slightly brittle in cold temperatures, so store it in a protected area where it will not be bumped or stepped on. Do not pile other items on top of the kayak while it is stored.



## SO 10 Sit-on kayak



- If the paddle is a right hand control (when the right blade is held vertical, the left blade “scoop” is up), the right hand will stay tight and your left hand loose. If using a left hand control paddle, the left hand stays tight, and the right hand stays loose.
- A proper stroke is a forward power stroke. Place the paddle blade in the water near your toes. Pull the blade back alongside the boat at your hip. Lift the paddle blade and take a stroke on the other side.
- A long paddle will allow for a longer stroke, while a shorter paddle will give a shorter, faster stroke.
- If the paddle blade drifts out to the side in an arc, it will force the bow of the boat to swing away from the paddle blade. This is called a sweep stroke and is used to turn the boat.
- Your kayak is very easy to use and very forgiving. By beginning in calm water you can quickly get the feel of the boat and paddle techniques.
- Relax your hands when paddling. Sit with good posture, keep your torso vertical and choose a footrest position that will allow your knees to be slightly bent. For greater efficiency use your arms and your torso by twisting slightly.

Both sit-in and sit-on-top kayaks are light enough to hand carry. However, to transport the kayak long distances when on foot, check with your local water recreation dealer for the availability of kayak skates or totes which strap on to one end of the kayak and allow the kayak to roll along on wheels. **Do not continually drag your kayak as this will eventually wear a hole in the plastic.**

Power boats or jet skis should not be used to tow your kayak. Serious injury and damage to your kayak can result.

## USING YOUR KAYAK

When paddling a kayak:

- Position yourself comfortably in the seat with your knees slightly bent. If your legs are too straight, you may find you put strain on your lower back. If your knees are bent too far, your arms and shoulders will fatigue prematurely.
- Lay the paddle horizontally in front of you to find the proper hand placement. Start with your hands about shoulder width apart and centered. If you place the center of the paddle on the top of your head, your elbows should form slightly less than a 90 degree angle. There should be an equal amount of paddle shaft and blade beyond each of your hands.
- Some paddles may have the blades offset, or feathered (for more experienced users). A feathered paddle presents less surface area for the wind to catch.

## ABOUT YOUR KAYAK

The sit-on-top kayak and sit-in kayak are general recreational use products. They are designed for lakes and slow moving streams. They are not designed for white water (class II and above rapids.) The amount of rapids the boat can safely navigate is far more dependant upon the skill of the person then the structural limitations of the boat. However, neither kayak has the structural rigidity to withstand class II water flow if the boat is swamped and pinned against an immovable object (i.e. rock, boulder, or stump).

### Hull Material

The Sit-on 10 kayak hull is thermoformed from a single sheet of High Density Polyethylene. Polyethylene is many times more impact resistant than fiberglass, will not permanently dent, and is much quieter than aluminum.

Polyethylene is abrasion resistant but not abrasion proof. Your kayak will sustain some scratches if forced over obstructions such as logs, sharp rocks and gravel. Do not be concerned if you notice the hull flexing as the kayak passes over an obstruction. This flexing is one of the great advantages of polyethylene. It bends and absorbs impact without sustaining serious damage.

The Sit-in 10 kayak hull is a one-piece rotomolded polyethylene unit. As stated above, Polyethylene is many times more impact resistant than fiberglass. The one piece design provides a simpler, stronger product.

## **Capacity and Flotation**

If the weight carrying capacity of your kayak is exceeded, performance and seaworthiness will be adversely affected possibly allowing the kayak to be swamped by a wave.

Both the Sit-on-top and Sit-in models are made from polyethylene which as a material is lighter than water so the boat will float at the surface if it is swamped. The added foam flotation will support your weight if you're in the water hanging on to the kayak.

### Sit-on-top

The interior of the sit-on-top kayak is basically a hollow chamber. This chamber is water resistant but not waterproof. Some seepage of water into the interior cavity is inevitable. There is a drain plug in the cockpit. Drain the interior of the boat before you launch the boat. Never store the kayak with any water trapped between the hull and deck

### Sit-in

The sit-in kayak has closed cell polystyrene foam located in each end for flotation.

## **TRANSPORTING YOUR KAYAK**

One of the easier ways to transport your kayak is to purchase a roof rack. They come with a variety of attachments from kayak saddles to stackers. The racks should be padded.

*\*Prolonged storage or repetitive transportation of your kayak in the same position can cause the plastic to dent if pads are not used\**

Follow the instructions that came with the rack for proper positioning. Ropes can then be strapped across the boat and tied to the bars. Do not over tighten the ropes or straps as this can cause dents in the kayak. Saddles cradle the boat and often come with their own straps. Stackers allow multiple boats to be placed on their sides without falling over.

An alternative from traditional rack systems are soft racks. They tend to be less expensive and will work with most any car. These are pads that sit between the kayak and the roof of your car. Avoid over-tightening the straps which may cause dents in the kayak or in the roof of the car.