



Great Lakes

INFLATABLE BOATS

Owners Manual

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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW BOAT

You are now a proud owner of a Great Lakes Inflatable boat. This owners manual will help you take care and maintain your boat for many years to come!



Valve Operation

Valves

Great Lakes valves are specifically designed for safe and comfortable use. The valves sit flat to increase comfort in the boat and to prevent damage to the boat.

Operation of valves:

- Remove valve cap. (The valve is closed when the center valve stem is in the up position.)
- Push the valve stem in and turn a half rotation to lock open and release air.
- Reverse the process to close valve.

Pump connection:

- When the valve stem is closed insert the pump connection & turn clockwise to lock.
- Pump until pressure is reached.
- Remove the Pump end by turning counter clockwise
- Be sure replace valve cap when pumping is complete.

If the boat loses air pressure, first check the valves. Use a soap and water spray on and around the valves. If air bubbles are present around the valves, take the following steps:

- Remove valve key from the orange repair kit.
- Insert the valve key into valve & turn key clockwise to check for air bubbles again.
- If the valve still leaks, inspect the valve for damage.
- If there is any damage take the defective valve to your selling dealer. You will receive a new valve.
- Reinstall and lubricate valve with soapy water solution to ease installation.
- In case of persistent air leakage, contact your dealer for assistance.

Inflation of Tube

Proper inflation is essential for the long lifespan of your boat.

(Roll up Models)

- Remove any sharp objects from flat surface where the boat will be assembled.
- To inflate the boat, roll out the boat on the floor.
- When the boat is unpacked, check to ensure all parts are present.
- Check the valves are closed by removing the valve cap. (When the valve stem is positioned upwards, the valve is closed.)
- Get your pump & push the pump end piece onto the valve and turn clockwise. (The pump will tighten around the valve)
- Put enough air into the boat to give the boat some form (apx 30% inflated) before installing the floorboards. (Instructions to follow).

(*All Models) All of the chambers should be inflated equally to avoid damage to the baffles that separate the chambers. Lorem ipsum

Order of Tube Inflation (All Models)

Inflate the boat in the following order:

1. Port and starboard chambers (Side chambers)
2. Bow chamber (front chamber)
3. Floor chamber (if applicable)
4. Keel chamber (if applicable). *Always inflate the Keel Chamber last.

****Never surpass these values****

Inflate the boat to 3.6 PSI. Inflate the keel to 5.8 PSI.

Inflate the high pressure floor to 11.6 PSI

CAUTION

Over-inflation can cause structural damage to your boat. If possible, avoid letting your boat sit in direct sunlight when not in use. This can cause air expansion in the air chambers, causing possible damage to your boat!

(Roll up Models) Installation of Floorboards

Great Lakes Inflatable Boats are equipped with either an inflatable or a non-inflatable floorboard system. Floorboards must properly installed before use.

Using the boat without the provided floorboard is unsafe, may cause damage to your boat and will void the warranty.

Instructions to install the aluminum floor system:

- Inflate tubes approximately 30% to give some shape to the boat.
- Place the Bow (front) section of floorboard as far forward as possible. (Make sure the hole of the floorboard is aligned with the valve of the keel section).
- Place the side with the sticker face up.
- Place 'part two' into the boat.
- Place 'part three' and 'part four' (if applicable). Make sure the rear floor board is under the transom tab.
- Lift the front of the final floor board and the back of the previous board to create a triangle shape to connect together. Push down with your body weight.

Installation of the Aluminum Stringer

After the installation of the floorboards install stringers to the sides of the floor.

To ease installation it is recommended to put an oar (paddle) under the bottom of the boat. (This lifts up the floorboards to have easier access to install the stringers on the sides of the floor.)

Installation of Air Floor

- Unroll the Air Floor.
- Install the provided thrust board.
- Install the Air Floor into the boat (thrust board facing down).
- Make sure the Air Floor at stern is under the transom tabs.
- Make sure the hole in the Air Floor is aligned with the keel valve.

Assembly Completion

Now that you have installed your floorboard system you are ready for full inflation!

Seat installation (All Models) :

- You must install the seat(s) before the full inflation your boat.
- Inflate the boat to 75% before installing the seat.
- Once the seat(s) are installed the Great Lakes inflatable boat can be fully inflated.

Order of Tube Inflation:

Rib and Console Models:

1. Port and starboard chambers
2. Bow chamber

Roll Up (Aluminum Floor Model):

1. Port and starboard chambers (side chambers)
2. Bow chamber (front chamber)
3. Keel

Roll Up (Air floor Model):

1. Port and starboard chambers (side chambers)
2. Bow chamber (front chamber)
3. Air floor
4. Keel

*For valve details refer to the inflation of values on page two.

Rowing Equipment

Your boat comes with two oars (or one paddle) depending on the model. The oars can be taken apart for easy transport. They can be neatly stowed on the inside of the tubes (using supplied attachments.)

Engine Installation (All Models)

Warning

Do not exceed the recommended horse power rating marked on your capacity plate. This can result in vessel damage, injury, possibly death and voids your warranty.

Outboard Engine Positioning:

Depending on the model of your Great Lakes Inflatable Boat--it is designed for either short shaft or a long shaft motor. Please refer to www.glboats.com for model specifications.

The motor position is essential for proper use. Make sure the motor is located in the middle of the transom and that the motor is trimmed properly.

Deflating your Boat (All Models)

NOTE: It is recommended that the boat be dry and cleaned prior to rolling up (to minimize mold growth).

Release the air evenly to minimize stress on baffles.

Deflating your boat:

1. Find a clean and dry area.
2. Release the air from Keel, Air Floor & then the main air chambers.

*If you have a RIB or Console Model you will only need to release the air from the main chambers.

NOTE: To save space and avoid damages when storing your RIB, loosely tie the tubes together (using the grip handles glued onto the tube set.)

Rolling up your vessel (Roll Up Models Only):

1. Remove the side stringer.
2. Remove the floorboards. (*Air Floor can be left in place)
3. Bring the top of the tubes to the center of the floor (so tubes are flat).
4. Fold the transom down & tuck the tube ends inside.
5. Starting from the transom, begin to roll to the Bow (front). Make sure the valves are in the open position.
6. Place in the provided Great Lakes storage bag.

Note: Repeat the rolling process if needed.

Transportation

(All Models)

Lifting:

To move your vessel (by hand) use the side & bow handles for lifting.

Towing:

WARNING

Never tow your craft with people aboard.
Frequently inspect the towing painter.
Periodically check the towing conditions and check
the craft is not taking in water.

IMPORTANT: The bow ring/grip handle should NOT be used for towing,
anchoring or mooring.

- Use both the port and starboard tow points (on the boat) for towing.
- Towing this way makes the boat steady and secure behind the towing boat, (and helps to avoid damage to your Great Lakes boat).
- Attach a line between the towing rings to form a bridal.
- Attach a towing line to this bridle.

WARNING

To ensure safety of all passengers and the operator: always ensure the use of an engine lanyard.

This will ensure the motor is immediately stopped if the driver suddenly falls overboard.

Pre-Operating Checklist (All Models)

- Check the inflation pressure of the air chambers.
- Ensure the drain plug is secure
- Check the outboard for tightness on the transom.
- Check the Fuel Level.
- Check that the lanyard stop switch for the outboard works correctly.
- Be sure the boat is not overloaded. (Do not exceed the maximum number of passengers or load capacity.)
- Be sure there is an approved personal flotation device (of suitable size) for each person aboard and make sure it is readily accessible.
- Ensure paddles are aboard.
- Be sure the Operator knows safe navigation, boating, and operating procedures.
- Arrange passengers and load so the boat weight is distributed evenly and the passengers are seated properly on seat or on the floor.
- Instruct at least one passenger in the basics of boat handling and the starting and operation of the outboard, (in case the driver becomes disabled or falls overboard.)
- Before departing, tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- No alcohol or drugs! It is illegal to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Know the waters and the area you will be boating; tides, currents, sand bars, rocks, and other hazards.

Operating your Boat

Rowing (RIBs and Roll ups):

To use your oars: remove the nut from the oar lock and place oar lock shaft through the hole of paddle. Re-screw the nut and adjust the seat for your optimal rowing position.

Outboard Motor Operation (All Models) :

Always ensure your outboard motor is operational before untying any mooring lines for departure. Ensure all line are inboard when departed.

CAUTION

While you are cruising at high speed avoid sharp turns and high waves as this may endanger the operator and passengers. Make sure the grab handles are accessible for all passengers. **ALWAYS MAKE SURE CHILDREN ARE SAFE AND SECURE & Always wear a life-jacket!**

Single Operation (All Models):

When operating under power (without passengers), do not sit on inflation tubes or seat. Weight should be as far forward and in the middle as possible.

Rapid acceleration should be avoided.

Position yourself evenly throughout the boat as practical as can be for an even weight distribution.

It is advised to keep the boat LEVEL. Prevent the bow from pointing UP, and prevent the bow from pointing DOWN towards the water.

Hazards

Air Chamber Failure (All Models) :

Your Great Lakes boat is designed with more than one air chamber. In the event that one of the air chamber becomes damaged (due to a puncture), the boat will save at least 50% of the buoyancy. Shift the weight to the opposite side. Secure the leaking chamber as necessary (by tying-up or holding-up.) Immediately proceed to the nearest shore or mother ship, whichever is nearest.

Beaching (All Models):

It is recommended that the boat not be under power when beaching, It is suggested that the boat be walked or guided in. Do not drag the boat across rocks, gravel or pavement-- as damage is likely to occur.

Davits (All Models) :

If the boat is suspended with davits, remove the drain plug so water can accumulate in the bilge area.

Drain plug (All Models):

Always ensure the drain plug is installed before launching (to avoid taking on water.)

Sunlight (All Models):

When possible avoid excessive sun exposure. A cover is always recommended when the boat is not in use for a long period of time. Ultra-violet rays over a longer period of time may accelerate the aging of the boat materials.

Refueling (All Models):

DO NOT SMOKE while refueling.

When refueling, always stick to the following recommendations:

- If possible, remove the portable tanks from the craft to refuel.
- Refuel the tanks in the open air, far from heat sources, sparks or flames.
- Do not fill the tanks to the brim. (The fuel increases volume with a rise in temperature, and there is a possibility of the tank overflowing or breaking.)

General Maintenance

Cleaners (All Models):

Mild dish soap and/or specialty designed cleaners for inflatable boats along with a gentle scrub pad should be used. Always follow the instructions on specialty cleaners.

CAUTION:

Do not use any solvents or chemicals to clean your boat. This can lead to premature deterioration of your tubes.

Repairs (All Models):

If you have any damage to your Great Lakes inflatable boat, it is strongly advised to go to your Great Lakes Boat dealer for the repair.

If the damage is a small puncture you can use the material you find in the repair kit. Larger areas (or if the patch will overlap a seam) should be patched by a professional repair technician at an inflatable repair station.

Contact your local Great Lakes dealer for guidance.

For best results (when gluing), the relative humidity should be less than 60%, ambient air temperature should be between 18 °C to 25 °C (65 °f to 77 °f) and not in direct sunlight.

In general, work as follows:

- Cut out a patch large enough to overlap the damaged area by 1.5 inches from all sides.
- Centre the overlapping patch over the damaged area and trace with a pencil the outline of the patch.
- Clean the surroundings of the puncture and the patch.
- Apply two thin layers of adhesive using a short bristle brush, in a circular pattern on both the backside of the patch and the patch area on the boat. Allow the first layer to dry completely (approximately 5 minutes) before applying a second layer. The second layer should dry until tacky, then apply the patch to the prepared area and press down firmly.
- Using a smooth object (the back of a tablespoon works well), force out any air bubbles that may have been trapped under the patch, working from the center of the patch to the outside.
- Wait 24 hours before you inflate the boat again.

Consult your local dealer if experiencing air loss.

Storage

Winter Storage

**Recommended:
Clean and dry you boat before storage**

1. After use, the boat and all components should be washed and rinsed with fresh water. This will help prevent mold or mildew.
2. The transom should be inspected for damage or deterioration of the finish. Scratches or abrasions should be refinished with a marine grade paints.
3. To keep the boat looking new, store the boat in a cool, dry area and avoid excessive exposure to direct sun light.

Loosely roll (or loosely tie) the tubes together and store in a cool dry area. Do not place heavy objects on the boat to any avoid damages.

If the boat is stored for a extended period of time at a temperature below freezing point: BEFORE the boat is reinflated it should to be stored at a temperature of at least 20°C for period of 8 hours or more before inflation.

FINAL NOTE:

ALWAYS PRACTICE SAFE BOATING PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL PASSENGERS AT ALL TIMES. ALWAYS TAKE EXTRA CARE WHEN CHILDREN ARE ON BOARD!

Stay Safe, Have Fun & Look Amazing in your Great Lakes Inflatable Boat