



Whitehall Spirit® Solo 14® / Tango 17® - General Care & Maintenance

Even though Whitehall Spirit® Solo 14® and Tango 17® models are designed to be as durable and maintenance-free as possible, there are a few simple actions you can take to ensure that your rowboat stays in the best condition possible, providing you with many, many years of use and enjoyment.

Cleaning & Maintaining the Hull

The hull's built-in Solarkote® finish resists abrasion and harmful UV rays. All that is required is washing with a soft cloth or sponge and warm soapy water.

Naturally, whenever possible, avoid dragging your boat across rough or rocky surfaces. If minor scuffs and abrasions do occur, we recommend the use of *Novus* or a similar polishing product.

Note: Never use strong solvents, such as acetone, lacquer thinners, or paints on these boats as these can seriously damage the acrylic finish.

The outside of the rowboat can be waxed however it is not necessary.

Saltwater Use

After use in saltwater, it is very important to ensure that you thoroughly rinse your boat with clean freshwater to prevent salt brine and grime buildup. Pay particular attention to all moving and pivoting parts including the slide seat tracks and the outrigger arm bases. Flushing will prevent salt crystallization and any resultant accelerated wear and potential metal corrosion.

Routinely check all safety items for wear and abrasion. Replace these as required.

Storage

Your rowing boat is designed to be stored right-side-up to prevent water pooling in the hull joint seam. If water collects in this seam located along the perimeter of the gunnel, it may result in pinhole water leakage and ice formation in the seams and, in colder climates, cause expansion cracks.

Ensure that you have supports on areas that the hull makes contact with. Before you store your rowing boat make sure that all salt water is thoroughly rinsed off and that any gravel, sand or grit is wiped off the slide seat tracks, footstop tracks and other hardware.

Storage on a dolly or a trailer: It is necessary to block (support) the overhanging transom end of the keel to stabilize the hull if leaving the boat, especially the Tango 17®, on a dolly or trailer.

This involves arranging something that supports the keel just enough to keep the boat's stern similarly supported as on the rest of the dolly or trailer.

Storage on a lift: In a bunk situation the location and length of the bunks are important to ensure that the interior hull dimensions remain stable as spread or compression can occur due to the nature of the hull material. When either spread or compression occurs, the position of the tracks can widen or narrow respectively and the fit of the slide seats' wheels can be affected. Please contact us with dimensions of your bunks for consultation if you plan to leave the boat on a lift.

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Covering

Dry the boat well before putting a cover on for long-term storage to reduce the possibility of mold and mildew formation. We recommend keeping the boat securely covered with cover battens in place to keep water from pooling on the cover when stored right-side-up outdoors. It is also a good idea to remove the drain plug so that any water that may get in will not collect in the boat.

If storing outside in areas where significant snowfalls occur, utilize ways to relieve snow loads that could cause hull compression. If storing upside down, preventing water from pooling in the hull joint is mandatory by covering the entire hull with a well-secured tarp.

Ventilation

Removing or loosening the hull drain plug located in the bow of the boat is also recommended for winter storage.

Extremely Sunny or Freezing Conditions

It is best to store your Solo 14® or Tango 17® away from direct sunlight whenever possible to further prolong its life.

All plastics have a minimum temperature rating. Cold weather can take a serious toll on even highly durable products. Plastics tend to crack when temperatures drop too low, and engines can seize if they don't warm up quickly enough.

At temperatures below freezing the material becomes brittle and its impact strength has been significantly reduced causing it to be susceptible to cracking when under stress or pressure.

Furthermore water expands when frozen and the pressure this creates is sometimes enough to crack plastic, especially those that are brittle at temperatures below freezing.

In addition due to differing expansion coefficients between stainless steel and plastic, earlier Solo 14 and Tango 17 models featuring full length keel strips should not be stored in below freezing conditions. Models without full length keel strips can handle freezing temperatures down to -17c or 0 degrees F.

All current Solo14 and Tango 17 2021 models feature bonded internal reinforcement with the option of a shorter bow area stainless steel keel strip for landing on rocks or concrete. These models will handle freezing conditions much better although for temperatures below zero Fahrenheit or -17 Celsius stainless keel strips should not be ordered.

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