

# EPN Care & Maintenance Mini-Guide

Keep your inflatable kayak performing like new. This quick guide covers cleaning, drying, storage, pressure habits, and field repairs. Built from a manufacturer mindset: reduce failure points, protect seams, and extend material life.

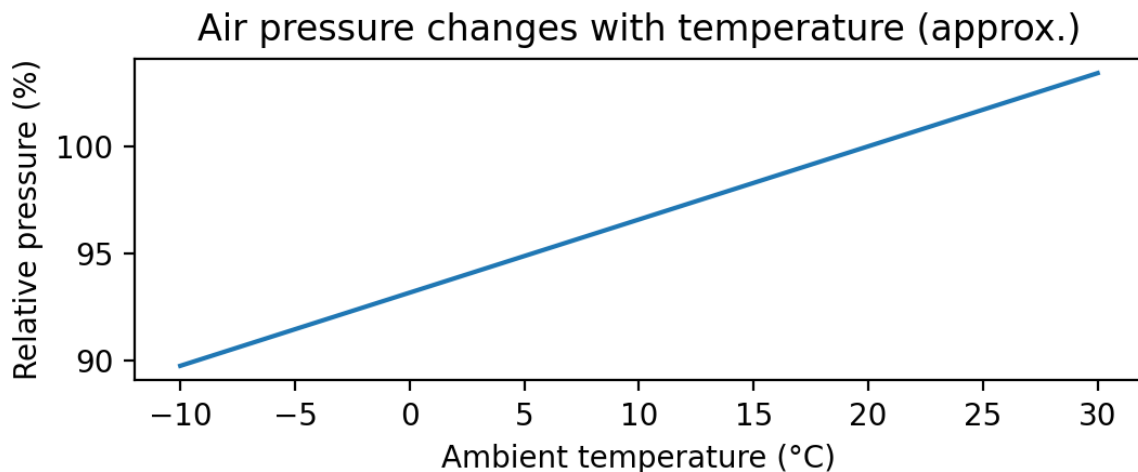
Use this when: you paddle occasionally, travel with your kayak, or store it between seasons. A few small habits prevent most leaks, odor, and seam stress.

## 1) After-Trip Routine (10 minutes)

Step	What to do	Why it matters
Rinse	Rinse sand/mud with clean water (especially floor and seams).	Abrasive grit accelerates wear and seam scuffing.
Dry	Air-dry fully before packing (wipe seams and valves).	Moisture causes odor, mold, and fabric-layer weakening over time.
Inspect	Check valves, seam edges, and high-wear zones for scuffs.	Early detection turns a repair into a 5-minute patch.
Pack	Fold loosely; avoid sharp creases on the same line every time.	Repeated hard creases concentrate stress and can print into PVC.

## 2) Inflation & Pressure Habits

Most inflatable-kayak issues are pressure-related: under-inflation causes flex and drag; over-inflation increases seam stress. Always inflate to the brand's recommended PSI and re-check after the kayak warms in the sun.



Tip: If you inflate in cold air and then paddle in warmer sun, pressure rises. Leave a small margin, and re-check after 10-15 minutes on site.

Scenario	What you may notice	Action
Boat feels soft / bends	Slow tracking, more splash, floor flex.	Top up to target PSI; confirm valves are seated.

Sun warming after launch	Side tubes feel tight.	Vent briefly if above target PSI; do not leave fully inflated in hot sun.
Cold storage overnight	Feels slightly soft next day.	Normal PSI drop from temperature; re-inflate before use.

### 3) Storage Rules That Prevent 80% of Problems

Rule	Do	Avoid
Dry first	Store completely dry; open valves while drying.	Packing wet or sealing in a hot trunk.
Cool & shaded	Keep away from heaters and direct sun.	Attics, back seats in summer, near radiators.
No heavy loads	Store on a shelf or hang in a wide sling.	Stacking boxes on top of a packed kayak.
Rodent protection	Use a sealed bin or elevated shelf if needed.	Floor storage in garages with pests.

Seasonal note: For long-term storage, lightly inflate (just enough to hold shape) only if you have a cool, shaded area and can avoid pressure buildup. Otherwise, dry + deflate + store flat is the safest default.

### 4) Field Repair: Puncture & Slow Leak

A patch repair is reliable when you prepare the surface correctly. The goal is clean PVC, full adhesive contact, and enough cure time.

Step	Best practice	Common mistake
Locate leak	Soapy water test; mark with pencil.	Chasing bubbles without marking the exact point.
Prep surface	Roughen lightly; clean with alcohol; dry fully.	Applying patch on wet/dirty PVC.
Apply patch	Round corners; press firmly from center outward.	Square corners that peel or trapped air pockets.
Cure	Wait per adhesive; longer if cold/humid.	Launching immediately (bond not set).

When to stop and seek service: seam separation, valve-base delamination, or repeated leaks at the same seam. These are structural failure modes and need a proper weld/replace approach.

### 5) Quick Maintenance Score (self-audit)

Check item	0 points	1 point	2 points
Drying habit	Often packed wet	Usually dry	Always fully dry
Storage conditions	Hot/sunny/dirty	Mostly OK	Cool, shaded, clean
Pressure discipline	Guessing	Sometimes checks	Uses gauge and re-checks
Inspection frequency	Never	Sometimes	Every trip

Score 7-10: low risk. 4-6: moderate risk (fix habits). 0-3: high risk (expect leaks/odor).