

Winter Storage Card

Putting away an inflatable dock, paddleboard or boat for a Canadian winter.

Inflatables rarely fail on the water. They fail in the shed, from being rolled up damp, chewed by mice or left somewhere that hits -25°C in January. Twenty minutes of care in the fall means it comes out of the bag in May the same as it went in.

-5°C to 27°C
Storage range in our warranty terms

Out early
Take it out before the water starts to freeze

Both sides dry
The step people rush, and the one that causes mildew

Off the floor
On a shelf or pallet, in a sealed tote, away from mice

The seven-step shutdown

1. **Clean it while it is still inflated.** Fresh water, mild soap and a soft brush. Skip bleach, solvents, abrasive pads and pressure washers up close.
2. **Inspect it while it is clean.** Seams, D-ring patches, valve and deck. Fix small scuffs now with the repair kit. If something looks structural, take photos and call us before you repair it.
3. **Dry both sides completely.** Top, bottom, edges, under the handles and around every D-ring. On a damp day, run a fan on it in the garage overnight.
4. **Drain the valve.** Open the cap, tip the valve down and let any water run out. Dry the cap and threads.
5. **Deflate and roll loosely toward the valve.** Change where the fold lines fall from year to year. Roll on a day above freezing.
6. **Strap it and store it dry, dark and off the floor.** Straps snug, not cinched. Nothing heavy on top.
7. **Protect it from mice.** Sealed tote, off the floor, away from bird seed and dog food. Check it once in mid-winter.

Where to store it

Spot	Verdict
Basement or heated room	The safest choice. Keep it off a damp concrete floor and away from the furnace.
Heated or attached garage	Fine if it stays above -5°C all winter. Keep it away from sharp tools.
Unheated garage or shed	Only in milder spots, like much of the BC coast. Most of the Interior, the Prairies and Ontario cottage country get much colder.
Closed-up cottage	Not recommended. No heat, no checks, and mice have months to settle in.
Deck box, tarp or car trunk	No. Cold, damp, or freezing all winter and very hot on a sunny spring day.

Rolled or inflated?

Either works. **Deflated and rolled** is compact and best in a heated space. **Partly inflated**, flat or on edge, leaves no creases: let air out well under working pressure first. Avoid full pressure in a space that warms up, and avoid a tight roll in the cold.

Paddleboards

- Rinse, then dry completely. Leave it inflated in the shade or indoors until every seam and handle is bone dry.
- Take the fin off, clear sand from the fin box, and put the screw and plate in a labelled bag inside the board bag. Store the fin flat.
- Roll loosely from the nose toward the valve. Bag it and put it on a shelf, with nothing stacked on top.

Ten-minute check before you roll it

- [ ] Hull and rails: cuts, deep gouges, any seam starting to lift
- [ ] D-rings and handles: tug each one
- [ ] Valve: listen for a hiss, or use a little soapy water
- [ ] Fin, fin box, screw and plate all accounted for
- [ ] Leash: nicks or stretched sections mean replace it

Electric outboards

- **The manual wins.** Storage charge, temperature and check intervals differ by brand and model. Use the manual for your exact battery.
- Flush after salt or brackish water, and rinse off weed and grit.
- Dry everything, especially the connectors.
- Check the propeller for nicks and for line wrapped around the shaft.
- Store the motor upright and supported, as the manual describes.

Inflatable boats

- Hose it down while inflated, including under the pontoons and around the valves.
- Dry it inflated, in the shade. If you can, give it a full day.
- Roll from the bow toward the valves. Roll, do not crease.
- Wash and fully dry the Bimini before folding it. Take off clamp-on rod holders and cup holders.
- Bring the motor and battery indoors.

Spring: getting a dock back on the water

- [ ] Bring it inside for a day so it warms up before you unroll it
- [ ] Unroll and look over the deck, seams, D-rings and valve
- [ ] Inflate to about half, check it looks even, then go to 7 PSI (5 to 7 PSI range)
- [ ] Leave it overnight and confirm it holds pressure
- [ ] Check pressure again after the first hot afternoon

Warranty note. Our warranty terms exclude damage from improper storage. For inflatable boards they spell out the range: no storage over 27°C or under -5°C. Use the same range for docks and boats. Found a possible defect? Report it in the fall with photos and proof of purchase.

HANDY FOR THE JOB



PVC Repair Kit
See today's price ↗



Cachalot 2 Electric Pump
See today's price ↗



Warranty terms
Read the details ↗

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