

Care of Varnished Paddles

Wooden paddles with a varnish finish were initially treated with an epoxy sealer, which has a water consistency.

This is absorbed into the wood as a protectant. Even when top layers of varnish are scratched, the wood is still protected by the epoxy sealer.

Sealer does not get brittle; and is not the same as resin.

Multiple layers of marine grade varnish (which has UV protectant) are applied. The film thickness provides the protection. Light sanding is required after each coat -- up to six coats is applied. This will give over 90% water protection.

How long this lasts is dependent upon "sun hours".

Do not leave paddle lying in the sun, or stored outside where UV damage can occur.

If a wood paddle has been left out year round, you will need to reapply varnish.

But that is after extreme exposure.

If you do re-varnish :

- lightly sand with 220 grit silicone carbide paper or finer.
- only take the gloss off.
- clean off dust; apply one to two coats of exterior use varnish which will have the UV protectant. Apply with a 2" foam brush.