

# CANOE OWNER'S MANUAL

## MODELS

14 three seat canoe  
14 TK two seat canoe  
14 NETK two seat canoe  
and  
15.4 square stern canoe  
14 C camouflage 3 seat canoe\*  
15.4 C camouflage square stern\*

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group  
4855 Broadmoor SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-5360  
1-800-552-6287  
[www.jowatercraft.com](http://www.jowatercraft.com)

\* with Advantage<sup>®</sup> Camouflage<sup>™</sup>

November, 2003

## Warranty

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group warrants its manufactured products to be free of material defects subject to the following time limitations and use exclusions.

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group warrants the hull and deck of each new canoe to be free of material and manufacturing defects for a period of two (2) years from the date of retail sale. All other component parts and accessories are warranted for a period of one (1) year or are warranted for the period specified by their original manufacturer, whichever is less.

Under this warranty, Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group is limited to the repair or replacement of the components as defined above. *Transportation to and from an authorized repair facility is the responsibility of the purchaser.* Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group shall not be held liable for incidental, consequential costs such as registration fees, or other damages resulting from defects in warranted components.

This warranty does not extend to or apply to any product that is used for rental or other commercial use, nor products that are damaged from abuse, neglect, accident, normal wear or repairs made by unauthorized repair facilities or individuals.

There are no warranties either expressed or implied which extend beyond those defined in this statement.

This warranty only applies to the original purchaser and is nontransferable.

To verify date of purchase, please return the product registration card within 30 days. Also please retain your original purchase receipt.

**Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group**  
**November 2003**

*4826 Rev A*

## IMPORTANT CANOE SAFETY TIPS

Be sure to check the current weather and forecast prior to departure. High wind will create rough water that will impede your progress and reduce the canoe's side to side stability. If you suddenly encounter rough water, improve stability by having all passengers sit or kneel on the floor, which lowers the center of gravity. Try to keep the canoe perpendicular to the waves. Get to shore as soon as possible.

When paddling in rivers and streams, stick to the smoothest and deepest channel of the stream. Avoid obvious disturbances in the water; they are a sure sign of an underwater obstacle.

Always try to avoid overhanging trees and limbs. They are often encountered along bends in the streams and rivers. The current will try to carry you along the outside of the bend, so additional steering may be required.

Remember that to steer a canoe you must be going either faster or slower than the current

**Always make sure that everyone in the canoe is wearing the proper Personal Flotation Device (life jacket). ExtraSport® company offers a full line of high quality PFD's that are widely available. Contact Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group if you have questions.**

**Thank you for purchasing this canoe from Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group.**

This canoe is unique. It is extremely durable, both stable and maneuverable, and includes convenient features not found on many other canoes. This Owner's Manual provides the key information on its use and care.

If you have additional questions, or would like to learn about canoe accessories, pedal boats, fishing boats, kayaks, dinghies, electric deck boats and the other fine products we offer, please contact us at:

Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group  
Customer Service  
4855 Broadmoor S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-5360  
1-800-552-6287

[www.jowatercraft.com](http://www.jowatercraft.com)

At Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group, we hope you enjoy this canoe for many years to come, and use it with family and friends to make a lifetime of memories.

Happy boating,

Sandra L. Spielmaker  
President , Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group

## **OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES**

### ***Motors***

The WaterQuest™ 15.4 Square Stern and canoe can accommodate up to a 4 horsepower outboard motor mounted on the stern. See the mounting instructions included with your motor for additional details.

The other canoes use an optional motor mounting bracket and MinnKota® electric trolling motor. The bracket can be purchased from Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group. The motor is available at marine dealers, sporting goods stores, mass merchandisers and leading outdoor retailers.

### ***Other Accessories***

To enhance the versatility of your canoe, Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group also offers the following accessories.

- For rowing:
  - Oar lock mounting kit
  - Oars
  
- For storage – Camouflage Canoe Cover
  
- For more seating comfort - Seat Cushions
  
- Spare paddles

See enclosed accessory list for more information, or contact Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group.

## MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

### *Maintenance*

Maintenance of your canoe, including the camouflage series, is very easy. Keep the surfaces clean by washing them with a mild detergent and water. If necessary, use may use a very soft bristle brush to help remove caked-on dirt. Do not use Armour-All® or other plastic conditioner products. They can discolor, and even weaken, the plastic.

If the canoe should develop a hole, a patch must be applied by *plastic welding*. Standard glues and adhesives will not adhere permanently to the polyethylene hull. Use Dow 832 Universal Sealant for filling holes. For more information about this process, please contact Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group.

### *Storage*

Always store your canoe upside down, supported on saw horses or boards so that end caps do not rest on the floor. Avoid stacking other items on your canoe. A method of saving space is to suspend the canoe from the ceiling of a garage or storage facility using straps that cradle the canoe.

Some of the seats have a removable drain plug in the support leg to drain any condensation or water. If the seats on your canoe have drain plugs, make certain the seats have been drained before storing for the winter.

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## TRANSPORT BY VEHICLE

Roof mount storage racks on cars, minivans and SUV's should be at least 42" wide to properly support your canoe.

If you do not own a roof mount storage rack, an alternative is a ***cartop transport kit*** with foam blocks that attach to the gunwales (top edge of the canoe hull). This kit is available from Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group. Call Customer Service at 1-800-552-6287 or log on to [www.jowatercraft.com](http://www.jowatercraft.com) to order.

### *Transporting Instructions*

*(applies to storage rack or car top transport kit)*

1. Position your canoe upside down on top of the vehicle.
2. Center your canoe on the vehicle for equal weight distribution.
3. Place two straps or ropes across the middle of the hull, and tie on both sides of the vehicle.
4. Your canoe has a front and rear carrying handle. Attach ropes or straps in an inverted "V" from the front canoe handle to each of the front corners of the vehicle.
5. Repeat the above process for the rear carrying handle.
6. Make a final check to ensure that all tie down cords are snug, but not so tight as to distort the shape of the canoe.
7. During travel, stop and check all tie down cords periodically.

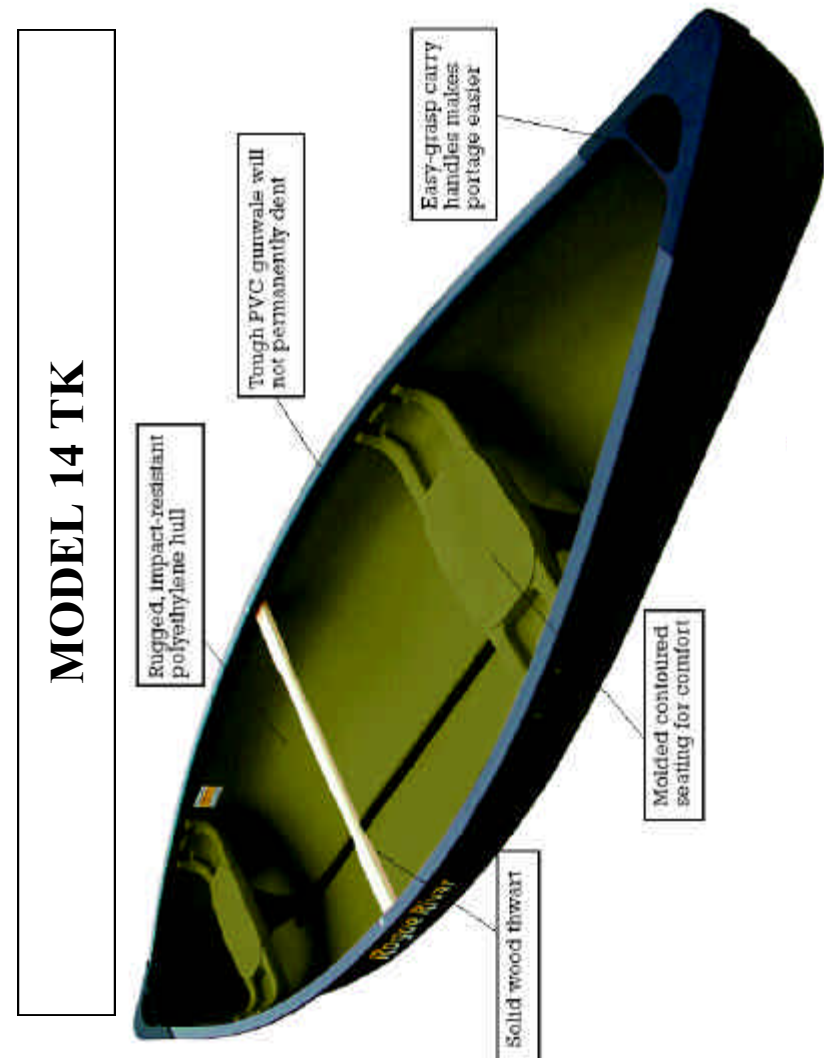
## PORTAGING YOUR CANOE

Two people can easily portage your canoe using the built-in handles located at the bow and stern.

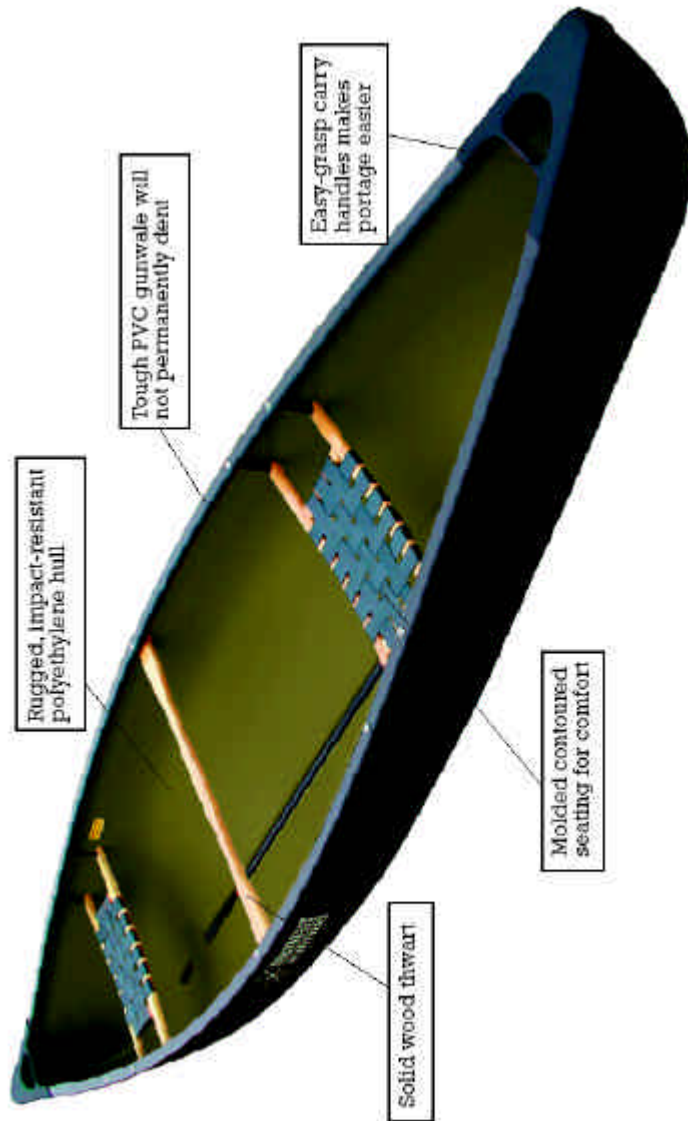
To carry the canoe yourself – which we don't recommend other than for short distances:

1. Turn it upside down
2. Lift up the bow and rest it against a tree or building.
3. Stand under the canoe facing the bow and position the center seat or center support arm across your shoulders and grasp the sides of the canoe slightly forward.
4. Lift the canoe, making sure to keep your back straight. Use your legs to raise and lower the canoe.

Note: The canoe is weighted slightly more in the stern which keeps the bow angled upward, allowing you to see where you are walking.



## MODEL 14 NETK



## PADDLING TIPS

When paddling a canoe

- Keep the paddle as near to vertical as you can with your upper hand at eye level.
- Reach out with your lower hand as far as possible, arm fully extended, and dip the blade in the water and push with your upper hand. Don't continue the stroke beyond your body - keep the paddle in front of you.
- A proper stroke is as close to the side of the canoe as possible.
- When completing your stroke, turn the blade sideways to remove it from the water smoothly.
- Switching the side of the canoe on which you paddle is okay, too. In fact, it's a good way to rest your muscles. Some canoeists switch sides every 5-6 strokes.

When two people are in the canoe, position the passenger in the bow seat where he or she can most easily assist with maintaining direction and steering control. When a single paddler is using the canoe, the best position is the rear seat.

## USING YOUR CANOE

### ***Loading***

When loading your canoe, remember to distribute weight as evenly as possible from the bow to stern, keeping it as close to the centerline as possible. It's also a good idea to tie down any loose gear. If your canoe has a center seat, you can place valuables like watches and wallets in the dry storage section of the center seat for their protection. Make certain that the number of passengers and amount of gear does not exceed the capacity limit posted on the canoe's capacity plate. ***Insist that each person put on a personal flotation device (life jacket).***

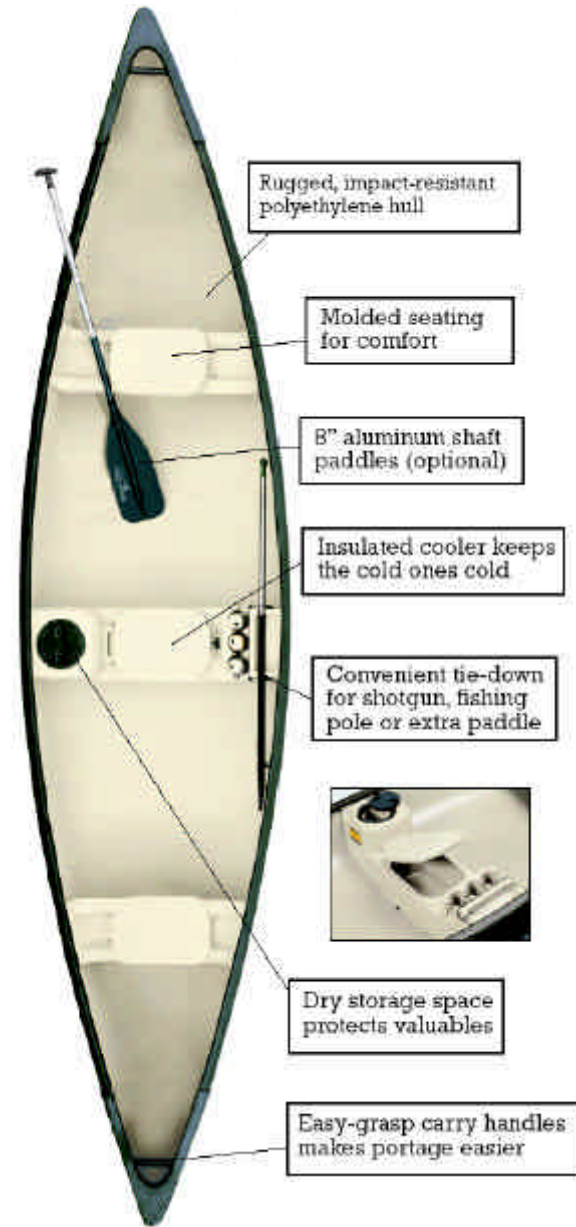
### ***Launching***

Launch your canoe from any beach or bank where the water is deep enough to support the hull.

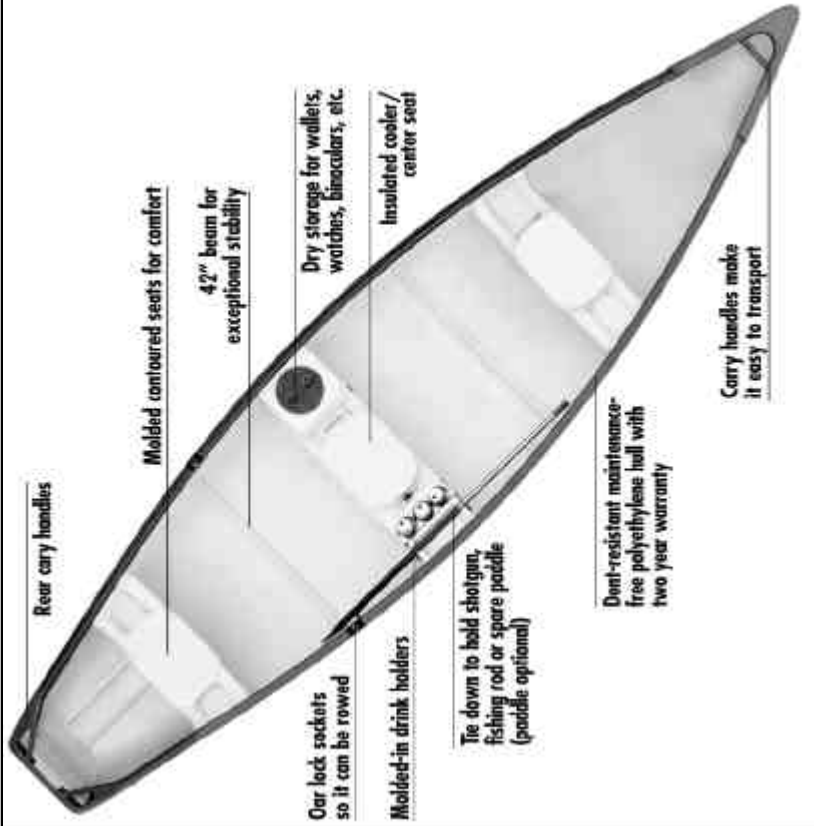
### ***Paddles***

When selecting paddles, choose one that stands approximately as high as your chin. Blade width should be about 8". It's a good idea to carry an extra paddle in case one is lost overboard. The proper paddles can be purchased from Johnson Outdoors-Watercraft, Sport & Leisure Group (see enclosed order form).

MODEL 14 & 14C



## MODEL 15.4 & 15.4C



## ABOUT YOUR CANOE

### Hull Material

The canoe hull is thermoformed from a single sheet of High Density Polyethylene. Polyethylene is many times more impact resistant than fiberglass, will not permanently dent, and is much quieter than aluminum.

Polyethylene is abrasion resistant but not abrasion proof. Your canoe will sustain some scratches if forced over obstructions such as logs, sharp rocks and gravel. Do not be concerned if you notice the hull flexing as the canoe passes over an obstruction. This flexing is one of the great advantages of polyethylene. It bends and absorbs impact without sustaining serious damage.

### Note: WaterQuest™ Camouflage Canoes

The camouflage laminate on the hull is also very durable. It has been tested for scratch resistance, UV fading, and adhesion using the standards and methods in the automotive and vinyl siding industries. However, if the hull is forced over logs, sharp rocks, gravel or other hard objects, the camouflage can be scratched. Note that the laminate will not peel away from the scratch. Also, the scratch will visually blend in, since the hull color matches a brown color used in the camouflage.