

**Buying a second hand kayak/canoe/stand-up-paddleboard should be encouraged. It's not only an affordable option at times, it also has a positive environmental impact. Take time to research which kayak/canoe/paddleboard best suits your needs. Think about how you're able to transport your kayak/canoe/paddleboard, the waters you want to explore in it and your own body shape and size. These factors will all have a bearing over which boat or board is best suited to you.**

Buy the right equipment for the activity you are doing. There are literally thousands of options available and each will have a specific usage. What works on the sea for beginners will be different from what works best on rivers or lochs. Generally speaking the shorter the boat or board the easier it is to turn around in circles and the wider the boat or board the more stable it is. If you want to explore a coastline in a straight line then consider purchasing a boat with a skeg or rudder, if you want to paddleboard down a river then think about shorter,

more robust fins. Do some research as to what works best for your needs.

As well as considering the correct equipment for the activity, always consider what safety equipment should be used alongside and how the activity can be most safely undertaken.

Scan this QR code for some great safety advice.



## Things to consider when purchasing second-hand kayak or canoe.

- **When the kayak/canoe was originally purchased?** generally the older the kayak, the more likely it is that it will be susceptible to damage.
- **What sort of kayak/canoe you need – is it right for you?** There are numerous different designs of kayak/canoe and generally speaking the shorter the slower and the narrower the more unstable.
- **How has the kayak been stored?** Off the ground and indoors is preferable to prevent warping from the sun. Look for bubbles or kinks in the plastic or fibreglass if it's been stored outside.
- **Signs of mould and mildew** – some types of mould can cause damage to the hull.
- **Internal buoyancy is intact.** This will either be a buoyancy bag, which should be inflated and hold air or a bloke of buoyancy which should be secure and not loose.
- If the kayak has hatches, **check that the hatch covers are the correct size, are watertight and not cracked or corroded.**
- If the fittings are **secure and corrosion free.**
- **Skeg/rudder lines are free from erosion or degradation.** The actual mechanism for the rudder should be checked to ensure it is functional.
- **If possible, take the kayak for a test paddle.** Having the kayak/canoe fit to your size is an important element of controlling the boat. You also want it to be easy to transport, so make sure it's not too heavy.

## Things to consider when purchasing second-hand stand-up paddleboard.

- **Consider when the SUP was originally purchased** – generally the older the SUP, the more likely it is that it will be susceptible to damage.
- **Choose the right shape and design for the intended use** – surf, touring, race.
- **Choose the right length and internal volume.** Each board will have an optimum loading capacity, which will either work for you or not, so do some research and find out how much the board can carry.
- **Whenever possible, try before you buy.** You want to feel stable on the board as this brings with it security and fun.
- **Lift the board up** – if it's very heavy it may be damaged and waterlogged.
- **Check the fins are intact,** secure fastened and are straight.
- You should always attach yourself with a leash whilst paddle boarding so **check that the leash is intact and in good order.** check that there is no wear or corrosion at the attachment points.
- **Check the board for any dents, cracks or other damage.**
- **If buying inflatable – fully inflate it and check for any leaks.**
- **Check that any decklines, cords or bungees on top of the board are intact.** This allows you to take safety gear with you onboard, attached to the board.

