

PREPARE YOUR NEW BAT FOR THE SEASON AHEAD....

YOUR CRICKET BAT

Cricket Blades are made from a soft, fibrous piece of willow. English Willow (Salix Caerulea) is the preferred timber for quality bats and it tends to play better than bats made from Kashmir Willow, which is willow grown outside of England, and by nature is much harder than English Willow.

All cricket bats will crack, bruise, scar or become marked in some way due to impact from a hard ball. Such marking can occur at any time during the life span of the bat. The performance of the bat will not be affected. There is sufficient information on this page for you to prepare your new bat, knock it in, and maintain and enjoy many successful seasons with it.

PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR NEW BAT

All natural finish bats require oiling before use. This is required to prevent the blade from drying out and reduces the chance of splitting and cracking. The best way to oil your bat is to apply a liberal coat of bat oil by brush or soft cloth to the blade, toe and edges once a day for 4 days. Allow the oil to dry in a horizontal position after each coat. Avoid getting oil on the splice area and under the stickers. Bats with Extratec finish do not require oiling apart from the exposed toe area.



EXTRATEC

Extratec is a low cost, clear, self – adhesive which is applied to the face and edges of cricket bats. It virtually seals this area of the bat, eliminating the need to oil, apart from the exposed toe area. It is the best possible insurance against surface cracking and enhances the life of the bat.



KNOCKING IN YOUR BAT

Knocking in is the process where the willow fibres in the face, edges and toe are compressed and knitted together to protect the bat against excessive damage or indentations. Effective knocking in will improve bat performance and enhance the lifespan of the bat.

STEPS FOR KNOCKING IN YOUR BAT:

Using either a bat or ball mallet the bat should be repeatedly struck down the front of the blade gradually increasing the force over a period of time. The edges and toe also need hardening in this manner by glancing the mallet across the area, once again gradually increasing force over a period of time. This first step can take up to 8 hours of total work. Machine pressing can help reduce this manual workload and many Cricket Specialists Australia stores offer this service.

After this initial work it is time to introduce your bat to throw downs and short catches with an old leather ball. It is strongly advised not to use machine balls or new leather balls. It may still take a few solid hours of hitting with an old ball before your bat becomes conditioned for use in matches. If you still have seam marks or indentations at this stage of the knocking in process you need to return to the first stage and perform some more work on the blade.

SURFACE CRACKING

Surface cracking in a cricket bat should not cause panic and worry. Cracking is consistent with the way willow appears after some or even light use. Often bats are at their best when showing some degree of cracking or opening of the grain. A light sand over the cracked areas and a light oil may be all that is required to return your bat to top condition. Extratec can be applied at any stage if cracks appear excessive or harmful.

WARRANTIES

Each warranty claim will be assessed on its merits and the course of action chosen will provide you with the best outcome to get you back in the middle playing with your bat as soon as possible. The course of action may include repair, replacement or refund. There is no warranty on bats with moisture damage, bats displaying lack of preparation or bats showing signs of improper use. Bats with broken handles, cracks and other minor problems that have occurred within the manufacturer's warranty period will be sent to the manufacturer for repair under warranty. Proof of purchase needs to be provided when claiming a warranty. This should be in the form of an original receipt or a relevant bank statement.



CAUSES OF DAMAGE TO CRICKET BATS

- Lack of preparation – All bats need some knocking in and preparation. Lack of preparation increases the chance of damage.
- Inaccurate play – This is expected as no player can hit accurately in the middle of the face all the time.
- Yorkers hitting toe – Possibly the most vulnerable area of the bat. Yorkers are an unavoidable part of the game.
- Severe edging – once again – It is impossible to hit every ball in the middle of the bat.
- Over oiling / under oiling – Over oiling causes your bat to get soft while under oiling causes the bat to dry out and become prone to splitting and excessive cracking.
- Low quality, hard cricket balls – Avoid using cheap hard centered balls and hard bowling machine balls. They can cause severe indentations and excessive damage to the edges and toe.
- Excessive heat – Do not keep your bat in the car or store it in an excessively hot place. Your bat should be stored where it will not dry out.
- Dampness causing swelling – Willow absorbs moisture. If you are playing in wet conditions you should apply some oil to the toe of your bat to assist in repelling moisture. If the toe absorbs moisture and swells seek immediate attention.

In the case of severe damage do not continue using the bat. Seek professional advice and repair work from your CSA store. Manufacturers will not guarantee repair work carried out by non – approved repairers.

