

Day Hatch



Photo #1

A day hatch is a nice feature on a kayak. It allows you to access small items that might only be used on a day trip or those items that you might frequently need access to during long trips, such as your wallet/purse, cellular phone, or camera. This watertight day hatch in front of the cockpit accommodates these needs.

For the small day hatch, a third small hatch opening needs to be cut in the deck before the deck is attached. The size of the opening is up to you. We recommend that it be big enough for the type of gear you plan to put through the opening and large enough for your hand to go through. Make sure you calculate the opening size to also accommodate the hatch lip that is required for the hatch stop.

Position of the day hatch also needs to be calculated so that you do not interfere with other deck fittings, straps, bungies, etc.

Cut the opening as per regular instructions on hatches and build the lip the same. **(Photo #1 – see “Hatch Stops” on “How To” page)**

From a piece of 1/8 in. plywood, cut two pieces that will be used for the ends of the day hatch “box”. If you make the day hatch too deep, it might interfere with your knees inside the cockpit. A depth of between 3 – 4 inches should be deep enough. The length of the day hatch “box” is also up to you. Ours are usually between 8 – 12 inches long, depending on boat size and customer preference. Width is usually 50% larger than the day hatch opening, so that the “box” can be attached to the underside of the deck without interfering with the hatch lip pieces.

Use scrap pieces of strips and glue them to the two end pieces to create an oblong shaped box (upside down). Glass and epoxy the outside and ends with scrap pieces of glass. No glass should be required on the inside, just several coats of epoxy to seal the wood.

Once you have the day hatch box completed, you will need to shape the edges so that it sits snugly to the underside surface of the deck at the position you have chosen. This will require you to round the ends and slightly taper the sides as the deck is sloping upward (deck facing up). Tape the “box” in position **(Photo #2)** and apply thickened epoxy around the



Photo #2

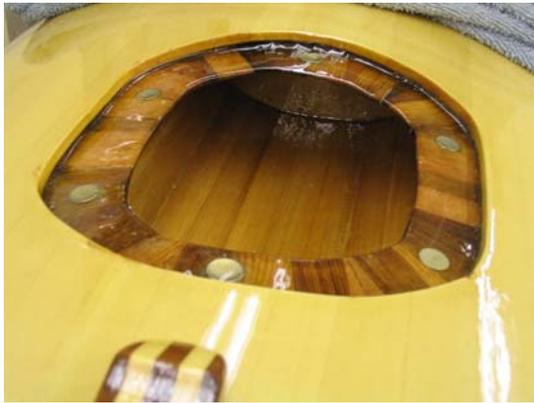


Photo #3

edges to seal all the sides. Once the thickened epoxy has set, remove the tape and apply two small strips of glass over the box and onto the deck and epoxy in place.

Check to see that the edges are properly sealed with a water test. Fill the day hatch and see if water leaks out. Completed hatch **Photo #3**

Note that on this day hatch we used magnets as hold downs. See “Installing Magnetic Hatches” on our “How To” page.