

BAT CARE (important notes please read carefully)

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www.vsports.co.uk

Cricket Bats are made from Salix Caerulea or Alba Var (English Willow). A soft fibrous reed with natural attributes that perfectly balance the requirement for both striking power & durability.

DAMAGE DUE TO THE USE OF POOR QUALITY CRICKET BALLS

Every bat will sustain damage with use. It can occur at anytime in its life span & is unavoidable part of the game.

Poor quality or excessively hard cricket balls can be a cause of many types of crack damage to the blade of the bat, as illustrated on our website.

Mistimed Shots, Dents, Cracks, Willow Lifting, Thick Edge or Yorker Damage DOES NOT MEAN THE BAT IS FAULTY.

ALL CRICKET BAT MANUFACTURERS recommend that only balls of reputable manufacture are used. Use of any other style or type of ball may cause damage to bats and WILL affect any claim made

PREPARATION FOR PLAY: The CRICKET BAT MANUFACTURERS recommend the following principles for the preparation and maintenance of cricket bats. Following these procedures will significantly reduce the possibility of damage occurring.

OILING: All natural faced bats MUST be treated using raw linseed or a specialist cricket bat oil. The main purpose of oiling is to maintain moisture levels within the blade, and hence reduce the chances of cracking and splitting.

Light coats should be applied to the face, edge, toe and back of the blade, taking care to avoid the logos and splice area. Generally two or three coats should be sufficient. Each coat should be allowed to dry into the blade, which should be kept in a horizontal position before the next is applied.

WARNING: DO NOT OVER OIL - DO NOT STAND THE BAT IN OIL - DO NOT LEAVE THE BAT IN A VERTICAL POSITION AFTER OILING - BATS WITH FULL PROTECTIVE COATINGS SHOULD NOT HAVE OIL APPLIED, BUT THEY MUST BE CONDITIONED AS DETAILED BELOW

ALTERNATIVELY It is possible to fit a clear *Anti-scuff or similar cover*. This does not negate the requirement to "knock-in" the bat.

The cover may assist the durability of the bat, but under no circumstances will it totally prevent surface damage.

PRE KNOCKED OR PRE PREPARED MEANS

All bats, that are pre-knocked in. Pre-knocked in however does not mean ready to go immediately. It means that the majority of preparation work has been done, but that you will need to complete the final part of the process. We therefore recommend that you spend little more time finishing knocking your bat in. This is best done with a purpose-made bat mallet. Hit the bat firmly with the bat mallet for a short period, don't just tap it. It is important that you make sure that the toe and the edges of the bat are well knocked-in. After this process use against an old ball to maximise the bat performance

KNOCKING-IN : All bats are pressed, however, "knocking-in" is VITAL. This is the process by which the fibres of the willow in the face and edges are compressed together to form a barrier that protects the bat against the impact of the ball. Effective "knocking-in" will significantly improve the performance and increase the lifespan of the bat.

STAGE ONE : The "knocking-in" process should be undertaken carefully using a special bat mallet or an old quality cricket ball. The bat should be repeatedly struck (with gradually increasing force) in all areas where one would normally expect to hit the ball. This conditioning must be performed with patience. Particular attention should be given to the edges, although the edges or toe should not be struck directly at right angles to the blade. This would be likely to cause damage.

This stage should take in the region of six hours, although it may vary, as every bat is different.

STAGE TWO : The next step is to graduate to the use of the bat to hit short catches with an old quality cricket ball. **However, if the seam marks the blade** it is necessary to return to "stage one" for further conditioning. This stage should be performed for at least another hour.

Once these steps have been taken, the bat should be ready for use in matches. It is advisable to initially avoid use against the "new ball".

In addition to these steps it is recommended that the purchaser follows closely the "bat care" instructions issued by the manufacturer.

WARNING: UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD A BAT BE USED IN MATCH CONDITIONS LESS THAN TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF PURCHASE