

# Cricket-Hockey.com

## Traditional Specialists

# Bat Care Guide

### **Oiling (Uncovered Bats)**

All uncovered bats should be oiled using either raw linseed oil or special bat oil before they are used. A small amount of oil should be applied to the face of the bat. It should then be worked into the rest of the blade as well as the toe, edges and back of the bat. The splice area (where the handle joins the blade) of the bat should not be oiled as this may soften the glue around that area. The bat should then be kept horizontally on its back for 24 hours so as to allow the oil to soak in. When the bat has dried out any oil that has not soaked in should be removed. To do this fine sandpaper should be used. This process should then be repeated at the beginning of each season. However, the back of the bat should not be oiled again.

### **Oiling (Bats with a Protective Cover)**

Oil should be applied as explained above, but only to the back and uncovered edges.

### **Over-Oiling**

It is important that you do not over oil your bat. More bats are spoilt by over-oiling than by under-oiling.

### **Knocking in Your Bat**

Many bats are pre-knocked in. Pre-knocked in however does not mean ready to play 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 between 45 minutes and an hour finishing knocking your bat in.

This is best done with a purpose-made bat mallet, either a smooth wooden mallet or a ball-on-handle 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.

## Playing in Your Bat

After you have finished knocking in the bat, we recommend that you play the bat in gently in a net session. Bat in a defensive manner and attempt to hit the ball with the middle of your bat. A soft, old cricket ball should be used in this initial net session.

## Additional Care for Your Bat

In addition to this we recommend that you take further precautions to make sure that your bat is well protected from being damaged. For uncovered bats, we suggest that you place a clear protective covering over the face of your bat. It is also advisable that you place a strip of edge tape along the inside and outside edge of your bat to provide additional protection and minimise the chances of cracking the bat on either of these edges.

## Ways to Avoid Damaging Your Bat

- Avoid exposing your bat to extreme temperatures.
- Do not stand your bat in oil.
- Try and prevent the bat from becoming damp.
- Do not use cheap hard balls as these will damage your bat.
- Do not misuse or treat your bat carelessly off the pitch.

You should store your bat in a cool dry atmosphere in the off season making sure that it is well away from any heat or dampness. Your bat should also be re-oiled after any substantial period where the bat has not been used. It is especially important to do this just prior to using your bat again in pre-season indoor nets. Some minor repairs can be carried out by you. To this end it is important that you carry bat tape in your bag so that you are able to make minor repairs where they are needed immediately.

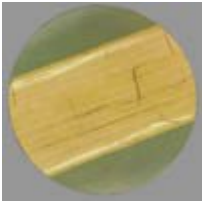
## Damage to Bats

Of course, it is possible that, despite taking all these precautions, the bat could still break with the first ball that it receives in a match. However, if you carry out all of the instructions above, you will greatly reduce the chances of any damage being caused to the bat. The bat is made of wood and is a natural product and therefore there is no guarantee that the bat will not break. The nature of a cricket bat means they are hand made and very individual. Each bat will look different and **superficial surface cracks can occur, but these should not detract from the performance of the bat.**

## Bat Repairs/Replacements

All our cricket bats are of the highest quality and a great deal of care is taken to make sure that only the best products are sold to our customers. Nonetheless, it is almost inevitable that surface cracks will occur at some stage. In the event of serious damage, please go on to our website and fill out the used returns form. We will organise the necessary paperwork for your bat to be inspected by the manufacturer (please do nothing until you receive this package). You will appreciate that bat making is a special skill & inspection and repairs can only be carried out by an expert.

## Examples of bat damage that may occur.

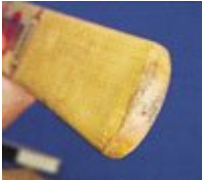


### Surface cracking to the face of the blade

CAUSE: General wear and tear.

SOLUTION: NOT REPLACEABLE, crack will not affect the performance of the BAT.

Repairable



### Surface cracking to the toe of the bat

CAUSE: General wear and tear. This type of damage is often caused by the striking of a "Yorker", or excessive tapping of the crease.

SOLUTION: NOT REPLACEABLE, crack will not affect the performance of the BAT.

Repairable with PVA glue



### Handle Breaks

CAUSE - General wear and tear.

SOLUTION: The bat itself is not replaceable, but the handle may be repaired at the MANUFACTURER'S discretion.



### Breakage of the blade

CAUSE: Weak or excessively dry Willow.

SOLUTION: Potentially replaceable by full or partial credit, at the MANUFACTURER'S discretion.



### **Split through the toe area of the blade**

**CAUSE:** This type of damage is caused by the striking of a ball at, or near the base of the blade, e.g. the driving of a "Yorker".

**SOLUTION:** Repairable and/or replaceable at the MANUFACTURER'S discretion.



### **CRACKING TO THE SHOULDER OF THE BLADE**

**CAUSE:** General wear and tear.

**SOLUTION:** Not Replaceable, a crack will not affect the performance of the bat. Repairable at the manufacturer's discretion.



### **DAMAGE BY MOISTURE**

**CAUSE:** This type of damage occurs as a result of use in damp or wet conditions. It generally leads to swelling of the toe area of the blade, which after drying may well split.

**SOLUTION:** Not Replaceable, there is no fault in the manufacturing or the materials used. The damage may be repairable at the manufacturer's discretion and the customer's cost.

## **DAMAGE DUE TO USE OF POOR QUALITY BALLS**

Poor quality or excessively hard cricket balls can be a cause of many types of crack damage to the blade of the Bat, as shown in the photographs above.

All Cricket Bat Manufacturers recommend that only balls of reputable manufacture be used. Use of any other style or type of ball may cause damage to bats and will affect any claim made.