Homepage---------------

Handcrafted Locally with Care

The Inlet Paddle Company creates high quality handcrafted canoe paddles using sustainably sourced local materials. Offering a range of products to suit the needs and budgets of beginners to expert paddlers, we pride ourselves on the durability and craftsmanship of our products.

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| A Paddle Any Occasion  Our popular models range from classic lakewater styles to high performance whitewater paddles. All models can be customized to better suit your needs and budget. | A Tradition of Craftsmanship  Learn about the materials we use and of their properties when shaped into paddles. Delve into the history of paddle making to further inform your purchase. |

Materials---------------

Maple

Tough wood used to create strong and durable paddles. Maple is a heavy material which may tire the arm faster but can be carved thinner and maintain strength. Paddle blade and tip should be well maintained to avoid water damage. Maple offers a uniquely beautiful grain pattern to paddles.

Ash

Strong wood that will lend its durability and toughness to a paddle well. Ash is a relatively heavy material but its toughness means paddles can be carved thinner to shed weight. Paddles made of Ash must be well maintained in order to avoid water damage, particularly at the blade and tip.

Cherry

Fairly strong and split resistant while maintaining a light weight and flexibility. Cherry is among the most popular paddle materials for these reasons. The wood stands up well to water damage and rot. Cherry offers an attractive red shades that only increase in richness as time passes.

Basswood

Light while maintaining reasonable strength, Basswood makes for a good multiuse paddle. Though durable, Basswood paddles do risk warping easily when moist. It is highly important to maintain this material as it’s porous nature means even the smallest nicks in the finish can let moisture in.

Spruce

Stiff, light wood that makes an excellent starter paddle. Functional and inexpensive, Spruce paddles work well as an introduction to wooden paddles. Young paddles will learn well the benefits and limits of a wooden paddle as well as the care required to maintain it.

Butternut

Lightweight wood with a fine grain pattern. Paddles made of Butternut excel in artistic paddling situations but are too fragile to be reliable on trips. Butternut paddles can be made stronger when laminated with other more durable woods.

Construction---------------

Grip

A paddle’s grip can take two common forms, the pear/palm grip and the t-grip. The pear/palm grip is more comfortable and ergonomic, excellent for longer trips. The t-grip allows the paddler’s fingers to wrap around the grip providing a strong grip, vital for whitewater.

Shaft

Primarily an ergonomic concern, a paddle’s shaft can be either round or ovular. Though round shafts are the traditional style, an oval shaft offers a wider, more comfortable gripping surface. Shafts can be laminated with stronger woods to increase their strength.

Blade

A paddle’s blade can take many forms, IPC offers Beaver Tail, Otter Tail, Voyageur and Square. The shorter and wider the blade, the better it will perform in potentially shallow whitewater. Thinner elongated blades work well on lakewater and allow for more artistic paddling. Blades can be made of a single material or can leverage the characteristics of many when pressed together.

Tip

A paddle’s tip is the most likely area for water damage to occur. In order to extend the time between maintenance sessions, a resin tip can be installed. This may affect the overall beauty of the paddle, but can help extend its life.

Customize---------------

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