

# Looking After Your Ozone Kite...

Ozone kites and wings are built using the best materials available on the market. We are constantly aiming to design as strong as possible while keeping weight down, as a lighter canopy translates directly into

performance increases and enhanced flying characteristics. By taking some simple precautions when handling you can significantly increase the life expectancy of your kite.



#### Don't leave your kite on the beach sunbathing

Leaving your kite set up sitting on the beach flapping in the wind and exposed to sunlight is far more harmful than riding or flying as the canopy material is constantly flapping. Minimize the time it is exposed to the sun (UV), wind, sand and salt when not in use. Make sure you safely secure the kite on the ground using a soft weight (e.g. sand bag, snow) so it doesn't move over the ground or flap in the wind. Do not weigh your kite down with unprotected sand or stones. When tipping sand/stones off it will act like sand paper on the material. Pack your kite away after use as soon as possible.



#### Pack your kite carefully

**Inflatable kite:** Roll your kite up along the leading edge from the wing tips to the center and fold in 2 or 3 to fit into the bag. Although your kite will arrive from the factory packed folded, do not fold the leading edge from tip to center, it is best to roll to prolong the life of the dacron as folding will tend to create creases in the same area each time. The only time you might want to fold your kite is when packing for travel, as you may need to save space. You may also want to completely deflate the struts by tightly rolling them up from the trailing edge to the leading edge to squeeze all remaining air out, then close the one pump clips on the connection hose before unrolling the struts and rolling/folding the leading edge from tip to center.

**Foil kite:** Foil kites without reinforced leading edge battens can be rolled. Foil kites with reinforced leading edge battens should be packed using the concertina method (stacking the ribs against each other). This will keep the battens in their designed shape while stored. We do not recommend rolling a foil kite with battens, as this could bend the battens out of shape, which can result in a deformation of the leading edge. We offer easy to use Closed Cell Compressor bags for the concertina packing method.



#### Don't let insects get trapped in your packed kite

Insects trapped in the canopy when packed away will try and gnaw their way out making holes in the process. In addition, insect secretions will stain the material. It is easy to avoid and the insects will be happier too.



#### Storing for longer periods

Even if your kite was completely dry after the last use it doesn't hurt to let it breathe and get some air if stored, it is good to open the bag so air can circulate. For longer storage periods your kite will appreciate to get out of the bag and put in an open air, fresh, shadowed and dry place. If you are using the Closed Cell Compressor bag for foil kites store it with the mesh side open so air can circulate.



#### Never step on the canopy

Walking or standing on the canopy weakens materials especially if the ground underneath is hard or stony. This is probably obvious for you, but sometimes there are children around who might be unaware.



#### What to do with a wet kite

The quickest way to dry your kite is to fly it, unless the air is moist or it's raining. Fly the kite until it's completely dry before packing away. You may notice a difference in performance when flying a kite wet as it will be heavier, but the kite's true performance will come back as it dries out.

If it's still wet when you have to go, pack it as open as possible. When back home open it up completely in a dry spot, out of the sunlight. Make sure it's completely dry before packing away.



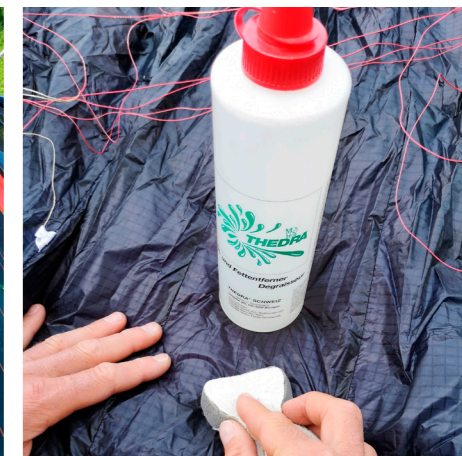
#### Don't drag your kite over the ground

Again this should be quite obvious. Dragging your kite over the ground can lead to holes and tears or obstacles can catch on outside seams and cause damage. The kites are built to be as light as possible so they shouldn't be too hard to lift up.



#### Avoid heat

All kite materials and components are sensitive to excessive heat, especially when combined with humidity. Heat speeds up the hydrolysis process, both fibers and coatings suffer. Never leave your kite in the boot or interior of a car parked in the sun. Don't store your kite near a radiator or any other heating appliance.



#### Cleaning

Never clean your kite with solvents or abrasives. Solvents like white spirits attack both the coating and the fibers making the material become porous and lose tear strength. If a stain on the material really bothers you, try to gently remove it with soft water, a non-abrasive sponge and a very mild soap. Thoroughly rinse the washed part and dry it out of direct sunlight or fly it.



#### Don't put your kite in a washing machine or pool

Even without detergent the material and components will be seriously damaged by mechanical action from a washing machine. Don't plunge a kite into a pool, as the chlorine will attack the material coatings.



#### Wash your kite after use in salt water

After your kite has been in salt water we highly recommend to rinse it off with fresh water to remove salt, sand and fish you might have caught. Lay your kite out on an open, clean and smooth surface such as grass and rinse it off with fresh water. Let it dry out of direct sunlight or fly it.

For foil kites try to wash it out from the inside as much as possible with a hose feed through the deflation valve. Let it dry out of direct sunlight or fly it.



#### Don't store your kite near chemicals

Chemical substances or fuel, oil etc. can dissolve the material and thus badly damage your kite. In your car always separate your kite from any spare fuel/oil canisters.



#### Don't squash your kite

Although your new kite is delivered from the factory tightly packed, avoid squashing it too hard by sitting on it or compressing it too much when packing. For foil kites make sure the leading edge battens do not get bent or kinked when packing.



#### Foil kite in water – rescue and self-rescue

Sometimes it just happens that your kite ends up in the water and you are unable to re-launch. Make a good judgment on the conditions. If there is no more wind it's not worth trying to re-launch. You are most likely getting more water into the kite by trying. Stay calm, wind your lines onto the bar swimming towards the kite without tension. Do not try to pull the kite towards you. Again this can lead to more water entering the kite. When you reach the bridles wind them onto the bar as far as possible. Fold both wing tips onto each other, put the bar on top and start rolling the kite up towards the center. Opening the deflation valve zip on the center cell of the upper surface and deflate the kite as you roll it up. NOTE: This is the only time we recommend rolling your kite! Back on shore be careful, as your kite can be quite heavy if there is still water inside. Gently let the water drain out through the wing tip openings or deflation valve in the center cell. Do not pull heavily on the fabric as this can stretch and damage it. Clean and dry your kite before packing away.

**For more maintenance and tuning tips visit [ozonekites.com](http://ozonekites.com)**