

Use and Care of Your New Rod

Proper use and care of your new rod can provide you with a lifetime of fishing pleasure. Far too many problems can be accredited to poor maintenance and misuse of a rod. In the following paragraphs I will discuss ways to properly use and care for your new rod.

Use:

The vast majority of rods that have been damaged or broken are due to a lack of proper use. Think of your new rod as a tool and only use it for its designed purpose! Some examples of improper use are:

- High Sticking a rod to un-stick a lure or bait
- Using the tip of a rod to dislodge a lure caught on a rock or log
- Putting a very deep bend in the rod to try to break the line on a snagged lure
- Flexing the rod tip too close to the butt end of the rod
- Tossing the rod into a boat or truck bed
- Leaning the rod in the corner of a hot and humid room

If you are using a 2 piece rod then you have a few additional areas of concern. Always ensure that the top and butt sections are well seated before fishing and check for a snug fit frequently through out the day. To ensure a snug fit between the 2 pieces, insert the top section into the butt section at a 90° offset and push while twisting the top section until the 2 pieces are snug and the guides are lined up correctly. Disassembly is the opposite. If you find that the 2 pieces are stuck together, try placing the rod behind your knees with the joint centered between your legs. Place your arms on the outside of your knees, grasp the rod and gently press outward with your legs while trying to twist the 2 pieces apart. If you find that the 2 pieces seem to stick together a lot you can lubricate the male portion of the rod with oil from your nose or use a ferrule lubricant. **DO NOT USE** any kind of solvent or silicone to un-stick or lubricate your rod! Doing so will damage the finish on your new rod. Always make sure that no sand or dirt gets into the mating ends of your 2 piece rod.

Certain guide rings are harder than diamonds and should be used with braided lines. If you are using a braided line take care to ensure that the line does not pick up small particles of sand or debris as this can wear a groove in your guide rings over time unless you have those rings designed to be used with braids.

Care:

Care of your new rod is pretty simple. Most of the components are designed to withstand the elements and should last the life of the rod if cared for properly.

Use a spray furniture polish that contains a wax at least once a season to maintain the finish on your rod. Wipe any mud, sand, fish scales or any other foreign matter from your rod at the end of each outing. Pay special attention to the threads on the reel seat and the area around the guides and guide rings. If you find that the cork on your rod looks grimy you can clean it with a mild detergent and warm water. Use a soft bristled brush such as an old tooth brush and gently brush the cork with your detergent solution. No matter what you do, NEVER use any product that contains an abrasive, solvent or silicon. These materials can permanently damage the finish or functionality of your new rod.

If you follow these guide lines and use common sense your new rod will look and fish as good as the day you purchased it for many years to come!