

Kite Maintenance Calendar

The Complete 2026 Checklist — Before Every Session to End of Season

■ BEFORE EVERY SESSION

EVERY RIDE

- Inspect kite canopy for tears or holes
- Check all bladder valves — secure & sealed?
Inflate briefly, listen for leaks
- Inspect leading edge & struts for damage
- Check bridle lines for wear or tangles
- Inspect bar — depower, trim & safety systems
Pull safety release — does it run clean?
- Check all flying lines for cuts or abrasion
Run fingers full length of each line
- Verify chicken loop & quick release function
- Confirm correct kite size for wind forecast

■ AFTER EVERY SESSION

EVERY RIDE

- Rinse kite thoroughly with fresh water
Salt is the #1 enemy of Dacron & Aluula
- Rinse bar, lines & depower system
- Dry kite fully before packing
Never pack wet — causes mold & canopy damage
- Roll kite from wingtips to centre strut
Avoid hard folds — causes micro-creases
- Coil lines evenly — no twists
- Inspect bar for salt crystallisation
Rinse slider, swivel & safety pin
- Log session: wind speed, any issues noted

■ MONTHLY CHECK — Set a reminder on the 1st of each month

- Full inflation test — hold pressure 15 min
Mark any slow-leak valves for repair
- Inspect all bridle attachment points
Look for fraying where lines meet kite
- Measure & compare all flying line lengths
Use a tape or tie all to a post and check even tension
- Check kite bar trim system & cleat
Cleat should lock firmly with no slip
- Inspect chicken loop wear rubber & latch spring
- Check canopy coating — any cracking or porosity?
Blow hard on canopy — feel for air passing through
- Test all safety systems — don't assume
Bar throw, 5th line, safety flag-out
- Clean & lightly lubricate swivel bearings
Use silicone spray — never WD40

■ **PRO TIP:** Keep a small waterproof notebook in your kite bag. Log every session with wind speed, kite used, and any issues noticed. Patterns in your log will reveal problems before they become failures. A 30-second note can save a ruined session.

Kite Maintenance Calendar

Seasonal, Annual & End-of-Season Deep Care Guide

SEASONAL — Every 3 Mont **QUARTERLY**

- Replace any worn line segments
Dyneema creep is real — replace, don't adjust
- Full bridle inspection & measurement
Compare to manufacturer spec chart
- Inspect kite bag — zip, webbing, handles
- Check pump hose connections & pressure gauge
- Inspect bladders visually when fully inflated
Look for bubbling or discolouration
- Re-test all safety systems under load

ANNUAL — Start of Season **YEARLY**

- Replace full flying line set if 2+ seasons old
Don't trust old lines for your safety
- Full kite inspection by professional
Many shops offer a pre-season check
- Replace chicken loop if rubber is cracked
- Update firmware on smart pump / app
- Check harness spreader bar hook & safety
Rust or wear here is a serious risk
- Review & update your emergency action plan
Know the nearest hospital to your spots

* END OF SEASON — Full Storage Prep

- Fully inflate all bladders, check for leaks
Fix every leak now — don't store a sick kite
- Deflate to 50% — never store fully deflated or inflated
Bladder material fatigues at extremes
- Deep rinse with fresh water, dry completely
Minimum 24 hours in shade before storage
- Apply UV protectant to canopy
Extends canopy life significantly
- Store lines loosely wound — no tight coils
Tight coils create permanent kinks in Dyneema
- Remove bar from bag, store separately
Prevents compression deformation
- Photograph any damage for insurance records
- Label bag with kite size, year, last service date
- Store in cool, dry, dark location
UV + heat = accelerated canopy degradation
- Book pre-season check for following year
Best shops fill up fast in spring

ALWAYS CARRY IN YOUR KITE BAG:

Bladder repair patch • Tear-Aid Type A & B • Aluula-specific tape • Spare valve • Dacron repair tape
Leatherman / multi-tool • Cable ties • Spare pigtails • Pump needle • Permanent marker

More repair guides, gear reviews & technical deep-dives at kitesurfbase.com

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