

Safety – Positive Flotation

The ability of the hull to float and not sink during and after a capsize is obviously extremely important. The original floatation may be degraded from age, wetness or a combination of both. You may even have a Mutineer that has had some or all of the original floatation removed.

First make sure the original floatation/inner hull is as dry as possible. Do this by opening inspection ports to allow air flow while stored (note if you have the original black rubber inspection ports you need to upgrade to installed inspection ports. See the article Safety – Inspection Ports).

Even if all of the original floatation is intact, it is a good idea to supplement it with additional floatation. John Fraiser did a study on secondary floatation and determined that pool noodles were easily the best value. In September of each year pool noodles can be found on sale in supermarkets and department stores. I have found them for a dollar each. Gib Charles determined that 20 pool noodles provide 240 lbs of positive floatation which is the minimum required for the Mutineer.

Balance the pool noodles so that the boat will float level when swamped. Place 5 pool noodles under the port and starboard seats, 3 in the transom space and the remaining 7 in the cuddy. Tie 7 pool noodles for the cuddy together and lash the bundle to your compression post or other object so the bundles does not float about the cuddy.



Got Noodles?