

## Board Care

Most boards are extremely delicate and should be handled with care. They're expensive little suckers, so you probably won't want to replace them often.

When on the beach, keep your board wax down, fins up. This will ensure that your wax doesn't melt in the sun. This will also protect the fins from breaking when your buddy thinks it's cool to sit down on the board. Better he gets a fin up his you-know-what than he breaks your fins in the sand (for you anyway! J).

Another fin protection method is to make sure you don't surf all the way to shore. If your fins hit the ground, they're bound to break. The jolt can even throw you off your board and cause ankles to twist or even legs to break. Remember this: "bail before you reach the shore."

What's the most common cause of broken boards? Unrepaired dings (abrasions in the protective covering of your board's foam inner core) fill up with water, then the foam inside gets water logged and heavy. Before you know it, your board snaps in half on a run of the mill wipeout!!

Make an effort to avoid the ding. How can you do that? Don't let your boards hit walls, ceilings, floors, rocks, etc. Try not to throw the board down when you're finished with it, no matter how exhausted you are. Always place surfboard carefully on the ground. Another mistake is to lean boards against walls where they may fall over and smash as soon as you turn your back. Don't drag boards along the ground as you walk either. It's a common oversight and an easy way to ding yourself half way to an irreparable break.

Another cause of dings and breaks is when one board hits another board in the water. Do your best to stay at least a board and leash's length away from other surfers. It's not just your board that's at risk. It's your personal safety. If a board can break another board, imagine what it can do to your head!

## Waxing

Boards do not have to be waxed every time out, but should be waxed or combed every few days for the best traction. You'll want to put enough wax on the board to where little bumps are formed. These bumps will give you grip to maneuver once standing up properly. Over time wax will lose its grip. Simply add more on top. If you have a pretty large wax build up on the board, use a surf comb to get more grip out of existing wax. First take the comb in one direction. Then go over the same spot in the opposite direction. This criss-crossing pattern will give you some traction.