

PVC or Hypalon?

Are your tubes PVC or Hypalon?

If you are looking to repair your tubes with patches, or to replace any valves on your rigid hull inflatable boat or inflatable then it's essential to know what fabric your inflatable sponsons are made from. It is **very** important to use the correct adhesive for the material.

There are two main types of material used in the manufacture of inflatable boat tubes:

1. **Hypalon:** This is a rubber / neoprene material
2. **PVC:** This is used in most production manufactured boats.

There are several tests to check which material your tubes are made from...

- If you can see the inside of the tube, through the valve, hypalon is a dark grey or black on the inside. PVC is the same colour on both sides.
- Sand the material – mypalon will matt down and produce a dust. PVC will just scratch. There will be no difference in colour.
- Wipe over lightly with MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone – often available at hardware, paint or plumbing stores and sold as a cleaner for PVC pipes or lacquer thinner) or acetone. Hypalon will leave an oxidation and maybe some colour on the cloth. The material will not be affected. For PVC you will have some colour on the cloth but the surface of the material will feel tacky. It is important to use the correct solvent on this solvent test.

PVC or Hypalon

Below is a list of boat brands by tube material:

Hypalon

AB, ACHILLES, AQUAFLYTE, AVON, BALLISTIC, BEAUFORT, BRIG, BWM, CALAGARI, CAMPARI, CARIBE, CHINOOK, COMPASS, DELTA, DOMINO, EUROCRAFT, FLATACRAFT, GOMMONAUTICA, GORDON, HENSHAWS, HUMBER, LOMAC, METZLER, ML LIFE GUARD, NOVAJELLY, NOVAMARINE, NOVURANIA, OSPREY, PICTON, RED BAY, REVENGER, RIBCRAFT, RIBTEC, RIB-X, RING, ROBCRAFT, SCANNER, SCORPION, SELVA, SEMPRIT, SELVA, STINGHER, TINKER, YAM RIBS, ZODIAC (Some pre 1968 leisure models – and their custom / commercial range – could be hypalon)

PVC

ARIMAR, BOMBARD, BRIG, COMPASS II, EUROVINYL, EXCEL, HONDA, LODESTAR, MAXXON, METZLER, NARWHAL, OMC EXPRESS, PLASTIMO, QUICKSILVER, RIBEYE, SERIE, SEAGO, SEVYLOR, SUZUMAR, TOHATSU, TYPHOON, VALIANT (Some larger ribs are PU), WAVELINE, WAVEECO, YAM, XM, YACHTING, ZED, ZOOM, ZODIAC (Zodiac Hypalon – see note above).

Polyurethane (PU)

TORNADO, VALIANT (larger commercial ribs)

