

Gel Coat Fiberglass Slide Owner's Manual



Installation Introduction

Dolphin WaterSlides, Inc™, pool slides are designed and manufactured for installation and use on residential in ground swimming pools or private bodies of water with a minimum water depth of 4'. Splash Area requirements are located in the Install Manual. Installation on any lesser water depth of pool or body of water is prohibited and can cause harm to the user.

Follow Local Building Codes and Standards

The installation of any of Dolphin WaterSlides™ fiberglass water slide must comply with all applicable governmental and building codes in your local area. Following local building codes and HOA guidelines are the sole responsibility of the installer of the slide, contractor over the installation, or if applicable, the owner of the water slide.

Assembly and Installation

All water slide projects are different. They will vary based on client preference, site conditions, and the installation. Every water slide designed by Dolphin WaterSlides is based on the information you provide to Dolphin designers. We cannot guarantee the slides performance on site based on installation variations. The slides must be assembled and installed properly. Improper assembly and installation will void Dolphin's warranty and may affect the safety of the user. Dolphin WaterSlides cannot and will not guarantee or be held liable for any part of the pool project other than the water slide design. We cannot guarantee the customer's deck, patio, platforms, steps, or any other structures designed with or around the water slide. This lies solely on the installer. The slide should be tested and if needed adjustments made, BEFORE any rock work, rebar cages, dirt mounds, etc. *This is a critical step and should not be overlooked.*

Construction Drawings

All drawings generated for slide installation are for construction purposes only and are NOT TO SCALE. Refer to your set of construction drawings that comes with the slide before attempting any installation. Included in the construction plans will be a slide path layout, elevations, and footing locations along with several information sheets such as support details page, flume profiles, plumbing diagrams, etc.

Subsequent Owners

This owner's manual must remain with the owner of the slide. If the owner changes, the owner's manual shall be brought to the attention of the new owner and if lost, then contact Dolphin WaterSlides™ to obtain a new one.

Manufacturer's Placement Instructions

THE SLIDE OWNER SHOULD CONFIRM THAT THE MANUFACTURER'S PLACEMENT INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE INSTALLER BEFORE THE SLIDE IS OPENED. EVERY CUSTOM WATER SLIDE DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED WILL HAVE AN INSTALLATION MANUAL AND CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS. THE SLIDE OWNER SHOULD HAVE A PERMANENT COPY OF BOTH KEPT IN A SAFE PLACE ALONG WITH THIS OWNERS MANUAL.

Daily Inspections

Daily inspections of your water slide are an important part of maintaining your investment as well as providing safety. Each day, before using your water slide, the homeowner should perform an inspection of the water slide. The inspection should include, but not be limited to, checking for:

- ✚ Obstructions in the slide path
- ✚ Cracks, chips, or bubbles in the sliding surface
- ✚ Rough ride area at seams or through the gel coat.

- ✚ Leaking seals or joints
- ✚ Loose splashguard (if applicable) in turns
- ✚ Excessive movement of the flume
- ✚ Opening up of joints
- ✚ Static water level in splashdown pool/area
- ✚ Water quality
- ✚ If any of the above items are discovered during the daily inspection, they should be addressed immediately. If there is structural damage, or the issue poses a rider's risk of injury, the slide should be closed down until corrected.

Routine Pool Slide Inspection Is Important

Don't let a small problem turn into a huge one by ignoring minor declines in your slides appearance. Gel coated fiberglass water slides require minimal maintenance. However, we do recommend the above referenced routine inspections and periodic maintenance in order to extend the lifetime usability of your investment. Below are some of our recommendations for water slide maintenance.

Winterizing and Spring Cleanup

Properly winterizing your water slide in the fall is preventative maintenance at its best! Other than draining the slide plumbing and winterizing your pump (see the manufacturer's details for pump). Taking steps now to prevent start-up problems and unnecessary expenses next Spring is time wisely spent. Do not ignore this part of your pool maintenance.

Because a Dolphin Water Slide is gel coat and fiberglass, it's important that the fiberglass components be washed, protected from the harmful UV rays of the sun, and other environmental elements and then waxed prior to the end of the season. Read on to properly protect your investment.

Gel Coated Fiberglass Water Slide Maintenance

Your fiberglass flume sections are a lot like a new car in terms of their exposure to the elements and how they weather. They do not need to be repainted or caulked, but they do need to be washed, waxed, and repaired routinely in order to protect their original shine.

Here are some general instructions for keeping your fiberglass flume sections looking almost like new.

1. Wash seasonally or more frequently, if needed. This depends on how often you use the slide. Wash with mild soap such as car or boat wash. Meguiar's, 3M, Mother's or similar products are all good options and can be purchased at a local auto stores, online. *Use nothing with bleach or harsh chemicals. Avoid using strong alkaline cleaners or abrasives.

Note: If you use a salt chlorination system, check your slide gel coat surface frequently for discoloration and abnormal abrasions to the ride area. Salt systems are controversial at this time, while being great for your skin they may be harmful to several features of your pool and slide. To avoid any problems with the system and your water slide, rinse the slide with fresh water after turning the water supply off. This will help wash off any excess salt residue left behind that may be harmful to your slide after a short period of time.

After the slide has been cleaned, and there is no damage to the slide from oxidation, you should apply a spray on UV protection product for maximum protection. You can choose to skip this step, but the better you protect the slide now, the longer it will last you later. Most can be sprayed on with a trigger sprayer and let dry.

- After the UV protection spray has had time to dry, apply a layer of a good grade wax . The Brands mentioned above carry just about any of these products needed. Apply the wax to the flume sections and then follow the instructions to buff it out and leave the slide surface shiny, beautiful and protected.

* Above notes taken from CCP Polyester Products Applications Manual 9th Edition.

Structural Maintenance

Our slide saddle supports are made of laser cut fabricated steel that has been powder-coated to prevent rust corrosion. Because our support structures are hinged to be adjustable to different slide slopes they are *powder coated* rather than galvanized or zinc dipped. Because of the hinge movement there may be issues with the powder coating coming off in areas and you notice red rust if left unattended. If corrosion does appear, the best solution is to use a wire brush on the area impacted to remove the excess rust and spray with an *outdoor black spray paint for metal in a matte finish*. This comes in an aerosol can and is ideal for touch up or resurfacing of *powder coated* areas. *Rust-Oleum® is a good choice for outdoor rust resistant spray paint and is available in many finishes. This product can be used once the slide is installed and you no longer need the hinge to be flexible. One good follow up coating should keep the saddle corrosion free.*

**See Installation Manual and Construction Drawings for Saddle Detail Sheet.*

Rider Safety Considerations



Listed below are some considerations that we feel Water Slide Owners should consider for the safe operation of water slides.

- ✚ Be sure that riders DO NOT ride the water slide headfirst. Head first riding can lead to contact with the pool bottom, which can cause spinal injuries, paralysis or death.
- ✚ Provide a means of positive lock off of the water slide structure.
- ✚ Water Slides should have an emergency shutoff easily accessible to the slide operators.
- ✚ Water Slides should be well lit during evening and nighttime operations.
- ✚ No one should be allowed to use the Water Slide with metal parts such as buckets, buttons, locker pins, safety pins, or tags attached to their bathing suits, shirts, or other wearing apparel. The gel coat finish is very hard but cannot withstand direct metal contact. Repeated scratching of the surface will shorten the life of the fiberglass flume sections.
- ✚ Mats are not required or recommended for use in the Water Slide because the slide surface is designed for body sliding.
- ✚ Dolphin Water Slide equipment, by design, has an intended specific use. Lack of maintenance and/or rider usage in a manner other than the intended use for which it was designed, can result in serious injury and lead to damage to the water slide.

Intended Use Rules for Safety

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE OWNER OF THE SLIDE READ AND FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE SAFETY RULES. MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE WHO USES THE SLIDE KNOWS AND FOLLOWS THE RULES. ENFORCE THE RULES USING ADULT SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES.

When installed and used properly your water slide will give you, your family, friends, and guests many hours of enjoyment. Like anything else, water slides can be misused in such a way as to cause the user injury, even serious crippling or other life threatening injuries. As the water slide owner it is your responsibility to do the following:

- ✚ Only one person allowed on the slide at a time.
- ✚ Ride Slide with Arms and Legs crossed and body laying flat against the slide surface. Do not attempt to ride the slide backwards, on belly, sitting up, or standing.
- ✚ Hold onto handrails at all times when entering slide.
- ✚ Roughhousing or horseplay on the slide is forbidden at all times.
- ✚ Do not use the slide as a diving platform. NEVER DIVE FROM ANY PART OF THE WATER SLIDE.
- ✚ Take your time when preparing to slide. Move yourself forward slowly and get yourself positioned properly before starting to slide.
- ✚ Use the correct sitting position for takeoff and allow your body to lay back and arms and legs crossed as you ride. Do not attempt to ride the slide backwards, on belly, sitting up, or standing on any object.
- ✚ Avoid sliding until any submerged obstacles, surface objects, or other swimmers are cleared from the slides splash zone into the pool. Do not attempt to slide into any pool float or other object above or under water.
- ✚ Don't drink alcoholic beverages and slide.
- ✚ Don't slide alone; use the buddy system.
- ✚ Children should never use the slide without the direct supervision of an adult. Riders must be swimmers.
- ✚ Do not use the slide if any part of it becomes damaged, weakened, or broken. Don't take chances. Have the slide inspected and, if necessary, repaired by a local professional fiberglass technician, who is familiar with gel coat surfaces, before riding the slide again.

- ✚ People with a history of back problems, heart conditions, or other past injuries that could be triggered should not ride the water slide.
- ✚ The weight limit on Dolphin Slides is 250 lbs and any one over this weight should use caution when riding.
- ✚ Handicapped persons should use caution and may require assistance.
- ✚ Pregnant women should not ride the slide.
- ✚ Upon entering the pool, riders should Immediately exit the slide splash zone.

Dolphin WaterSlides Inc.