



Canoe & Kayak
Paddles 2012



**What
propels
you?**

What propels you?
What motivates you to find
your place on the water?
Getting away?
Getting together?
Getting a fresh look
at the world?

Regardless, the experience
will be even more pleasurable
if you're propelled by a
quality paddle.

Which is where we come in.
Bending Branches paddles
have been crafted by people
who've been making paddles
for almost 30 years. People
who share your passion
for canoeing and kayaking.
People who have themselves
always been propelled by the
notion of combining innovative
thinking with uncompromising
craftsmanship.

Even before you start paddling,

**Black
Pearl**



*Meet our new, lightweight
Black Pearl on page 7.*

you separate yourself from the crowd.



From the start, thinking of better ways to propel paddlers.

In 1982, whitewater and touring canoeist Dale Kicker and flat-water racer Ron Hultman teamed up to create the first composite-tipped canoe paddle. This unique innovation revolutionized the paddle industry and gave birth to Bending Branches.



Since then, paddles from this company in Wisconsin have propelled more than a million paddlers to places and experiences that are something to write home about.

And this spirit of pushing forward continues to drive Bending Branches today. We're committed to bringing new features to the water that enhance your paddling experience.

How to choose your canoe paddle

You'll likely have a paddle in your hands the entire time you're canoeing, so picking the right one is critical. A paddle that fits you and your paddling style can make the difference between a fun, rewarding experience on the water or sore hands and shoulders.

Choosing that perfect-for-you canoe paddle depends upon several key considerations:

1. Your canoe's width and cross section
2. Type of paddling and length of outing
3. Your size
4. Types of paddles and features to look for

① Canoe style

- If you have a general-purpose, family tandem canoe, your selection process can be streamlined. You'll want to look at the sizing chart at the lower right to make your paddle selections.
- For narrow tripping canoes, those with tumblehome (inward leaning) gunwales, or low seats, select a paddle with a shorter shaft (typically by one size).
- Extra-wide, flared canoes and those with high seats require a slightly longer paddle so that you can easily reach the water with the blade and avoid hitting the shaft (or your knuckles) on the gunwale.



② Type of paddling and length of outing



Lakes and rivers:

- Straight paddles are the most commonly-used, all-around canoe paddles for the conditions you'll find on lakes and rivers. The main variables to consider among these paddles are weight, comfort, and durability.
- If you normally paddle in shallow water, you'll be better off with a shorter, flat-bottomed paddle. The blade tip should be made with a resin to make it more durable in the shallows.
- If, on the other hand, most of your paddling is in deep water, you might choose a more traditional paddle in a standard shaft length. These paddles enter and exit the water more quietly, and their longer length gives you more control.
- A canoe paddle with an ovalized shaft (vs. a perfectly round shaft) will be far more comfortable, easier to hold, and less fatiguing.
- In general, paddles with the classic rounded palm grip are more comfortable to paddle on lakes and rivers. Or try the symmetrical grips (freestyle type) which allow you to paddle using either face.

Extended trips on flat water or racing:

- Bent-shaft paddles are more efficient (they move more water with less effort) and are best for long distances over flat water. Racers commonly use bent-shaft paddles.
- The shape of bent shaft paddles generates powerful strokes but makes most maneuvering strokes and steering more difficult. Bent-shaft paddles allow the canoe blade to be kept vertical for a longer portion of the stroke, which is where the available power is greatest.
- Keep in mind that bent-shaft paddles are generally four inches shorter than straight paddles for the same size paddler.



Whitewater:

- You'll need a paddle that can take some hard knocks. Most serious whitewater paddlers follow the Straight Canoe column in the size chart at right, but opinions abound.
- Make sure that the paddle blade has a urethane tip to protect it.
- Whitewater paddlers will typically choose a T-grip for the control it provides.
- And a paddle with an ovalized shaft will be easier to hold.



3 Your size

There are many subtleties (and opinions) regarding the best paddle length. Many experienced paddlers have a collection of different paddle models and sizes for different conditions, but most people find the following chart to be effective in sizing new paddlers. The general rule: the shortest paddle that allows you to properly reach the water is best.

In the middle of their stroke, most paddlers hold the grip so that their top hand is about the height of their nose, and the point where the paddle blade meets the shaft (the throat) is at the water line. Measuring the length of your torso is a good way to approximate that geometry.

Here's a simple and accurate way to measure your torso. Sit up straight — don't slouch — on a flat chair. Measure the distance from the surface of the chair between your legs to your nose. Then follow the chart at right.

An easy way to measure in the field is to place the grip of the paddle between your legs while sitting. Mark where the shoulder of the blade (the point where the blade meets the shaft) hits you. The shoulder on a straight shaft should be at your forehead; the shoulder on a bent shaft should be at your nose.

4 Types of paddles and features to look for

Quick tips:

- Laminated wood shafts are generally both stronger and

stiffer than solid wood.

- Blades with fiberglass resist splitting if they get caught between sharp rocks or piled under duffel bags in the back of your vehicle.
- Particularly with wood, smoothness of the finish is critical for your comfort.
- Some manufacturers offer high-grade resins along the entire edge of the paddle blade as well as on just the tip. If your paddle sees rough treatment or will be continuously exposed to water on a long trip, you'll want this type of protection.
- Spar varnish is recommended by some paddle manufacturers for continuous exposure to sunlight, but that gives a softer finish that can pick up fine grit and feel tacky. Polyurethane provides a harder and more durable finish.

Premium touring paddles.

Beautifully-crafted from multiple hardwoods, these high-tech, ergonomically-sound paddles are designed for the canoe elitist who wants the finest in power, comfort, and beauty.

- Designed for weeklong or day trips on lakes and rivers.
- Blade tips should be made of resin for durability.

- These exquisite paddles are typically available in both bent and straight shafts.

Performance touring paddles.

Made of closed grain, light weight, durable hardwoods, these paddles are both attractive and versatile for the paddlers who take their time on the water more seriously.

- Designed for flat water cruising on lakes and rivers.
- Rugged enough for heavy use — strong shafts, resin-tipped blades.
- Some have fiberglass-wrapped blades, good for heavy use in wilderness tripping.
- Most are available with both straight and bent shafts.
- New to the touring line, the 100 percent carbon Black Pearl brings lightweight performance to another level.

Canoe Paddle Sizing Chart

Torso Length	Straight Canoe Paddle Shaft Size	Bent Canoe Paddle Shaft Size
20"	Youth	n/a
22"	Youth	n/a
24"	Youth	n/a
26"	50" or 52"	48"
28"	54"	50"
30"	56" or 57"	52"
32"	57" or 58"	54"
34"	60"	56"
36"	62"	n/a
38"	64"	n/a

Kayak Paddle Sizing Chart

Kayak Width	Under 23"	24" - 28"	29" +
Paddler Height	Recommended Paddle Length		
Under 5'5"	210 - 220 cm	230 cm	230 - 240 cm
5'5" - 5'11"	220 cm	230 cm	230 - 240 cm
6' +	220 - 230 cm	230 - 240 cm	240 cm

How to choose your canoe paddle

“My Espresso ST has now completed almost two full seasons, and has proved to be the best paddle purchase that I have ever made.”

Al, Iowa

Recreational paddles.

If you're taking short trips with your family or friends, fishing or shore exploring, a straight-shaft recreational paddle would be the right style of paddle for you.

- The old-fashioned Beavertail paddle. A wood laminate or one piece of wood, with a long rounded blade is a great choice. These narrow and longer bladed paddles pull extremely smooth through the water, and the length helps with sweep strokes.
- If your kids' young hands will be piloting the boat, choose a paddle with a T-grip that's easier for them to hold on to.

Expedition paddles.

Expedition paddles are built to stand up to the rugged conditions of an expedition or whitewater use:

- Typically built of the beefiest components/materials.
- Should have a fully-protected blade edge (with a urethane resin) and a fiberglass blade wrap for added durability.

The tip of every Bending Branches paddle is protected with Rockgard™. This proprietary technology – derived from the same material as inline skate wheels – maintains the integrity of the paddle, seals against moisture and protects the most vulnerable areas – the tips and edges. Paddles protected with Rockgard™ last six times as long as those without protection.

- Look closely at the paddle grips. T-grips are typically better for whitewater, while a curved palm grip may provide you the comfort you're looking for on a long trip.
- Usually available with both straight- and bent-shafts.

“I don't know how it is possible to love a paddle, but when I opened the box and saw that new Expedition Plus, it felt like love at first sight. Wow, I am a happy canoeist. I give Bending Branches a big plug not because you support me, but because you build the best paddles on the planet.”

Rob Kesselring, Minnesota

Solo paddles.

Solo paddles let you get out on the water by yourself.

- Like a long kayak paddle, these paddles have a single shaft with dual blades to eliminate corrective strokes – a huge help in windy conditions or when keeping up with fast tandems.
- Make sure the paddle and grip are both comfortable and efficient for your use, as there's only one person doing the work here.

Solo Canoe Sizing Chart

Canoe Width	Under 35"	35"+
Paddler Height	Recommended Paddle Length	
Under 5'5"	260 cm	Not likely
5'5" – 5'11"	260 cm	280 cm
6'+	280 cm	280 cm

Stand-up paddles.

Designed for the surf:

- These paddles should be your height plus 6 to 8 inches.
- Wood paddles typically have more “give” and flexibility for this paddling style.
- The paddle shaft and blade should have the extra protection of wrapped fiberglass that provides more strength and greater durability.

“Nice to see a quality product in a time when so many products don't meet your expectations. I've used alot of paddles over the years and this is one of the best.”

Vaughn, North Carolina

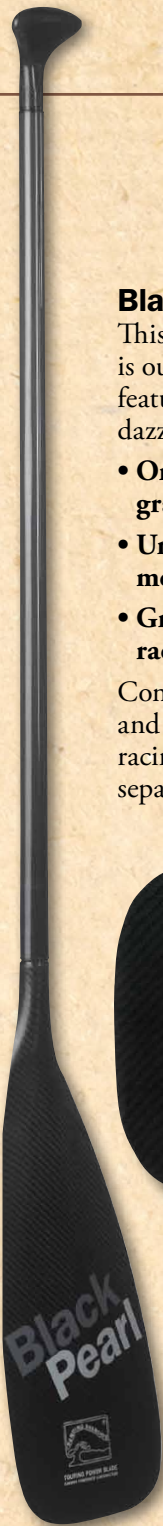
A final word...whenever possible, try out a few paddle sizes and types before you commit. On-water demos held by many retailers are always a good way to try before you buy.



Carbon Premium Touring Paddle



Wood paddles from Bending Branches are one of life's pure pleasures. But it can be refreshing to shift gears once in a while. And the new Black Pearl is a gear-shifting paddle like no other. The Black Pearl has the quality craftsmanship and durability you expect from Bending Branches, but with the sleek look and strength-to-weight ratio only polished carbon can provide.



Black Pearl


This 100% carbon touring paddle is our new jewel – with exquisite features and performance that will dazzle even the most discriminating paddler:



- Only 14 ounces in weight, thanks to aviation-grade carbon construction.
- Unique 11° bent shaft that makes every stroke more productive.
- Grip design that's more comfortable than racing paddles.

Combine this with a large touring blade shape, and a touring blade edge that's more durable than racing paddles, and you have a paddle that instantly separates you from the crowd.



Paddle	Grip	Shaft Type	Blade Material	Blade Size	Length (in.)	Weight
Black Pearl		Carbon	Carbon	8.1" x 19" (115 sq. in.)	48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54	14 oz. (397 g)

*Paddle weight based on 52 inch length.

Premium Touring Paddles



Fashion follows function in these exquisite paddles. They're easy on the eyes and on the water. Fellow paddlers are certain to take notice as you glide across the lake or head out on a day trip. Available in both bent and straight versions.

Sunburst

Combining years of craftsmanship with state of the art composite technology, the Sunburst is a dream to paddle. From fiberglass-reinforced, Rockgard™-tipped blade to ovalized T-700 Carbon shaft to ergonomic grip, this paddle is designed with the canoe elitist in mind. Also offered in XL, for those who are looking for more power. Both the Sunburst and Sunburst XL will provide years of comfortable, worry-free paddling and propel you to places dreams are made of.

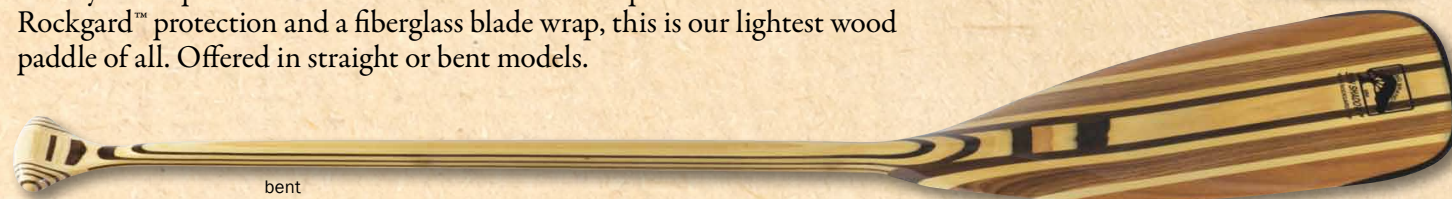


Straight or Bent



Espresso

Beauty meets performance in this all Black Willow paddle. With full Rockgard™ protection and a fiberglass blade wrap, this is our lightest wood paddle of all. Offered in straight or bent models.



Sun Shadow

Exotic and eye-catching paddle with a narrow ovalized shaft and ergonomically designed grip that fits smaller hands comfortably. The 11-laminate blade delivers smooth power to every stroke. Offered in straight or bent models.

Paddle	Grip	Shaft Type	Blade Material	Blade Size	Length (in.)	Weight
Sunburst		T-700 Carbon	Black Willow, Basswood, Alder	7.9" x 17" (99 sq. in.)	52, 54, 56, 58, 60	15 oz. (425 g)
Sunburst 14		T-700 Carbon	Black Willow, Basswood, Alder	7.9" x 17" (99 sq. in.)	48, 50, 52, 54	15 oz. (425 g)
Sunburst XL		T-700 Carbon	Black Willow, Basswood, Alder	8.1" x 19" (115 sq. in.)	52, 54, 56, 58, 60	17 oz. (482 g)
Sunburst XL 14		T-700 Carbon	Black Willow, Basswood, Alder	8.1" x 19" (115 sq. in.)	48, 50, 52, 54	17 oz. (482 g)
Espresso		Solid Black Willow	Black Willow	8" x 20" (118 sq. in.)	52, 54, 56, 58, 60	18 oz. (510 g)
Espresso 14		Solid Black Willow	Black Willow	8" x 20" (118 sq. in.)	48, 50, 52, 54	18 oz. (510 g)
Sun Shadow		21 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Black Willow, Alder, Butternut	8" x 20" (118 sq. in.)	52, 54, 56, 58, 60	22 oz. (624 g)
Sun Shadow 14		21 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Black Willow, Alder, Butternut	8" x 20" (118 sq. in.)	48, 50, 52, 54	22 oz. (624 g)

*Due to the varied density of wood, all canoe paddles could have a +/- 10% variance in weight. Paddle weight is based on 54 inch measurements for straight shafts and 50 inch measurements for bent shafts.

Performance Touring Paddles



Attractive and versatile paddles, perfect for both sophisticated and recreational paddlers alike. If you are looking for both performance and design, you won't be disappointed.



BB Special. America's #1 selling bent shaft paddle offers flat water cruising performance for the paddler wishing to take that next step up.



Arrow. An attractive, versatile paddle that gives great performance.



Cruiser Plus 14. For those who want the efficiency of a bent paddle in a more rugged form. Reinforced with fiberglass, the Cruiser is a step up from the BB Special in durability and power.



Explorer Plus. A favorite for wilderness tripping, we've made the Explorer even more durable with a fiberglass blade wrap that will withstand heavy use.

Paddle	Grip	Shaft Type	Blade Material	Blade Size	Length (in.)	Weight
BB Special		12 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Alder, Maple	8" x 20" (118 sq. in.)	48, 50, 52, 54, 56	22 oz. (624 g)
Arrow		12 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Butternut, Maple	7.3" x 20" (121 sq. in.)	52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62	23 oz. (652 g)
Cruiser Plus 14		12 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Butternut, Alder	8.5" x 20" (128 sq. in.)	48, 50, 52, 54	23 oz. (652 g)
Explorer Plus		21 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Butternut, Alder	8" x 20" (126 sq. in.)	52, 54, 56, 58, 60	23 oz. (652 g)

*Due to the varied density of wood, all canoe paddles could have a +/- 10% variance in weight. Paddle weight is based on 54 inch measurements for straight shafts and 50 inch measurements for bent shafts."

Recreational Straight Paddles



Whether you are a traditionalist looking for simple clean lines or you have an eye for both beauty and economy, we have a paddle for you. We even have a well-balanced paddle that can take the inevitable abuse your child may dish out, yet with a T-grip that won't slip out of young hands.

*Shown left to right:
Twig, Loon, Traveler,
Beavertail*

Paddle	Grip	Shaft Type	Blade Material	Blade Size	Length (in.)	Weight
Twig		Solid Basswood	Variety	5.5" x 16"	36, 42, 48	14 oz. (397 g)
Loon		Solid Basswood	Basswood, Maple	6.75" x 20"	51, 54, 57, 60, 63	20 oz. (567 g)
Traveler		Solid Basswood	Basswood, Alder	6.75" x 20"	51, 54, 57, 60	20 oz. (567 g)
Beavertail		Solid Black Willow	Black Willow, Alder	6.75" x 25"	54, 57, 60, 63	20 oz. (567 g)

*Due to the varied density of wood, all canoe paddles could have a +/- 10% variance in weight. Paddle weight is based on 54 inch measurements for straight shafts seen above.

Expedition Paddles



When durability and efficiency are your focus, you need not look any further than our expedition paddles. Designed with the solid protection of Rockgard™, state-of-the-art laminates and a fiberglass blade wrap, you can focus your attention on navigating, knowing your paddle will perform.



Expedition Plus

Paddlers who require even tougher equipment will appreciate this bombproof paddle, protected with Rockgard™ 6 inches up the shaft. Excellent for whitewater.

Viper

Our ergonomic double bend paddle takes efficiency and comfort to the next level. Aligning both wrists to reduce fatigue, this paddle is both stunning to look at and to paddle. We have wrapped the blade in fiberglass to protect the 9 laminates of basswood and black willow.



Paddle	Grip	Shaft Type	Blade Material	Blade Size	Length (in.)	Weight
Expedition Plus		21 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Butternut	8" x 20" (126 sq. in.)	52, 54, 56, 58, 60	24 oz. (680 g)
Viper		21 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Black Willow	9" x 20" (128.5 sq. in.)	48, 50, 52, 54	23 oz. (652 g)

*Due to the varied density of wood, all canoe paddles could have a +/- 10% variance in weight. Paddle weight is based on 54 inch measurements for straight shafts and 50 inch measurements for bent shafts."

Solo and Stand Up Paddles



Impression Solo

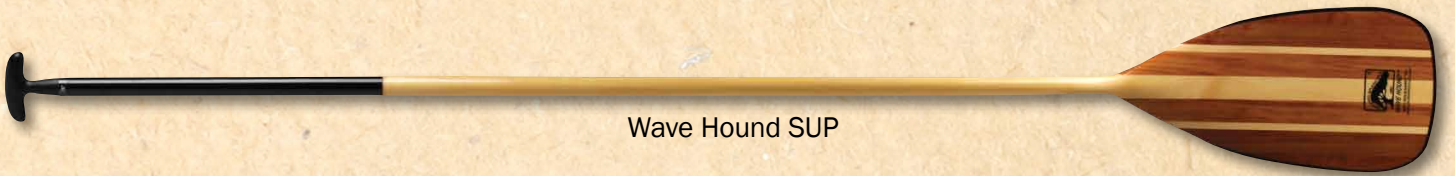
You've always paddled tandem, but now you're wondering what a solo experience would be like. So go. Power through headwinds and take care of all those corrective strokes you would otherwise have in a traditional canoe paddle, with the simple comfort of our Impression Solo paddle. Customers have been calling repeatedly for this paddle and we are pleased to meet their needs. Available in 260 and 280 cm two piece, break down.



Impression Solo

Wave Hound SUP

The Wave Hound stand-up hybrid combines the natural flex of wood and the strength of fiberglass to deliver just the right blend of give and take. The basswood shaft wrapped with biaxial 7300 glass provides the perfect grip, and has a bomb-proof break strength of 400 lbs. A full 2 oz. bi-directional blade wrap protects the blade from splits and allows the beauty of the wood to show through. The 10 degree bent shaft and the 9" x 18" blade with the deep wide point generates all the power you need to get going.



Wave Hound SUP

Paddle	Shaft Type	Blade Material	Blade Size	Length	Weight
Impression Solo	Solid Basswood	Basswood, Butternut	6.8" x 19" (104 sq. in.)	260, 280 cm	44 oz. (1247 g)
Wave Hound SUP	Basswood/Fiberglass	Basswood, Black Willow	9" x 18" (117 sq. in.)	70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86 in.	35 oz. (992 g)

*Due to the varied density of wood, all kayak/SUP paddles could have a +/- 10% variance in weight. Paddle weight is based on 260 inch measurements for Impression Solo and 76 inch measurements for the Wave Hound SUP.



Kayak Paddles



Our wood kayak paddles offer a natural flex and softness that is easy on the body and hands, entering and exiting the water quietly with a smooth profiled front and back face that is otherwise only available in the most expensive of synthetic paddles. Each paddle also offers two-piece construction with stainless steel snap buttons for breakdown and precision composite ferrules.

Navigator

In the Navigator, Bending Branches has combined high-tech, ultra lightweight, T-700 carbon shaft material with a proven blade design made out of rich-looking black willow wood.

The material combination provides unique flex and the unmatched fit and finish you expect from a Bending Branches paddle.

The result: a smooth pull through the water, and reduced shoulder and arm fatigue. Proprietary Rockgard™ protection starts at the tip and wraps around the leading edge. Each blade is reinforced with fiberglass to provide durability not seen in most lightweight paddles.

If you're looking for beauty combined with unsurpassed fit, finish and durability in a lightweight paddle that flexes to meet your paddling style, look no further.





Impression

Fun for recreational day trips with features such as our composite ferrule that won't corrode or seize up.



Sun Shadow Crank

Our wood crankshaft is completely unique in paddlesports. Engineered to ergonomically align the wrists during the power stroke, this shaft allows you to paddle for hours with more comfort and less fatigue.

Paddle	Shaft Type	Blade Material	Blade Size	Length (cm)	Weight
Impression 	Solid Basswood	Basswood, Butternut	6.8" x 19" (104 sq. in.)	210, 220, 230, 240	37 oz. (1049 g)
Sun Shadow Crank Day 	21 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Black Willow, Alder	6.8" x 19" (104 sq. in.)	210, 220, 230, 240	41.5 oz. (1177 g)
Sun Shadow Crank Evening 	21 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Black Willow, Alder	5.75" x 21" (100 sq. in.)	220, 230, 240	38.5 oz. (1042 g)
Sun Shadow Crank Twilite 	21 Laminate Basswood	Basswood, Black Willow, Alder	5.2" x 19" (87 sq. in.)	210, 220, 230, 240	38 oz. (1077 g)
Navigator 	Satin T-700 Carbon	Black Willow	6.2" x 20.1" (96 sq. in.)	210, 220, 230, 240	28 oz. (794 g)

*Due to the varied density of wood, all kayak paddles could have a +/- 10% variance in weight. Paddle weight is based on 220 inch measurements for all paddles seen above.



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Share with us what propels you.



All Bending Branches paddles
are made in the U.S.A.



Paddle Warranty Information

We build strong paddles and have one of the lowest breakage rates in the industry. But we know the unthinkable can happen. When it does, we honor all reasonable requests for repair or replacement. Bending Branches paddles are guaranteed against manufacturing defects for one year from date of purchase. Just email bbsales@bendingbranches.com or call 1-715-755-3405 for warranty or repair information.

Caring for your Wood Paddle

Your paddle won't need any special care except to protect it from the elements between trips. If the finish of the paddle does become scratched or worn through, you can repair it. Sand the area with a fine grit abrasive until it is smooth and dull. Apply two or three thin coats of solvent based (not water based) outdoor or marine grade polyurethane. Rub lightly with a fine abrasive between coats for a better finish. When the last coat is dry you are ready for the water! If the wood is damaged, sand the area aggressively with 100 or 120 grit sandpaper to smooth the wood and remove the discoloration. Treat the sanded area with 3 or 4 coats of polyurethane as described above. If the job is more than you can handle, we will repair it for a small charge.

