retrospec™

Owner's Manual

Manuel du propriétaire

Yuba Inflatable River Raft

Yuba Radeau Gonflable de Rivière

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Welcome

Oh, hey!

Welcome to the **retrospec** family! We're so happy to have you along for the ride. Your new Yuba Inflatable River Raft comes with everything you need to get out on the water safely and confidently.

What's in the Box

- 1 Inflatable River Raft
- Thwarts
- 1 Pump
- 2 Paddles
- 1 Carry Bag
- Repair Kit
- 1 Owner's Manual

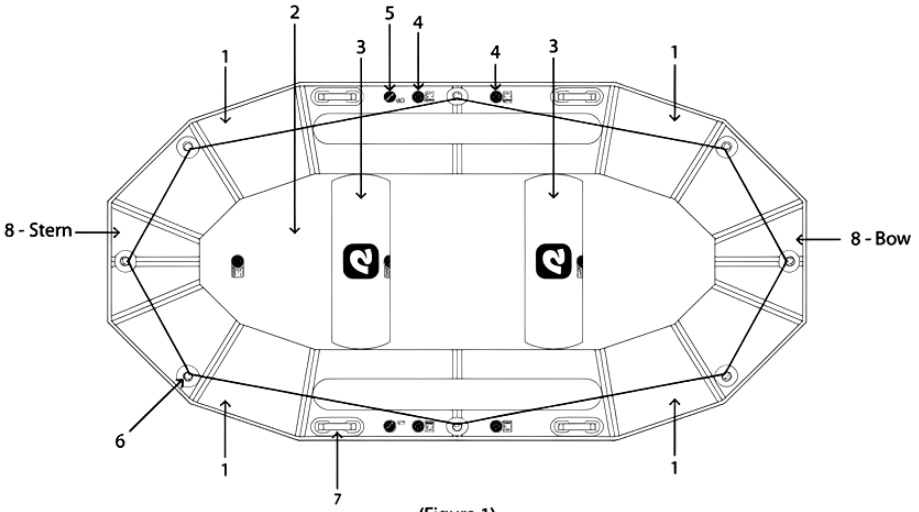
Recommended Gear (Not Included)

- US Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
- UV 30+ Protective Clothing
- Slip-Resistant Footwear

- Waterproof Flashlight
- Sunscreen
- Whistle
- Hat and Sunglasses with Lanyard
- Spare Paddle
- Rescue Throw Bag

Get to Know Your Yuba Inflatable River Raft

Here's a quick look at all the key parts of your raft before you hit the water.



(Figure 1)

15' Raft has 3-Thwarts

1. Main Air Chambers — Four outer chambers that give the raft its shape and buoyancy.

2. Center Floor Chamber — Drop-stitch inflatable floor.

3. Thwarts — Inflatable cross tubes that seat paddlers and add structure.

4. Valves and Valve Caps — Used to inflate and deflate each chamber. Caps keep valves protected when not in use.

5. Pressure Relief Valves (PRVs) — Located on main chambers only. Release excess pressure automatically.

6. D-Rings — Attachment points for gear, safety lines, and accessories.

7. Carry Handles — Grab handles on the exterior for lifting and portaging the raft.

8. Bow / Stern — Front (bow) and rear (stern) of the raft.

Let's Keep It Safe Out There

⚠ **Warning** — Paddlesports can be physically demanding and involve real risks. Read and follow all warnings and instructions in this manual. Failure to do so may result in serious injury or death.

⚠ **Warning** — Always wear a US Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). Federal law requires PFDs on paddle watercraft outside of designated swimming or surfing areas. Wear it.

⚠ **Warning** — Hypothermia can be fatal. Check water and air temperatures and dress appropriately. Hypothermia can occur in relatively warm water, and survival time drops fast as temperatures fall. Wear a wetsuit or drysuit when conditions call for it.

⚠ **Warning** — Minors must be supervised at all times and must wear a US Coast Guard approved PFD. This raft must not be used by anyone under age 12. Ages 12 to 18 require adult supervision.

⚠ **Warning** — Do not overinflate. Inflate to the specified PSI only. Excessive inflation strains seams and can cause the chambers to burst. Damage from overinflation is not covered by warranty.

⚠ **Warning** — Do not exceed the capacity limit. Check the capacity label on your raft and do not exceed the maximum passenger count or total weight. Overloading can cause capsizing and drowning.

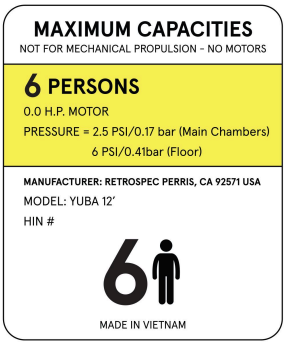
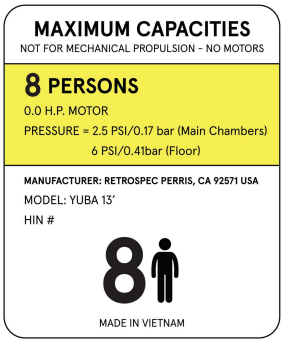
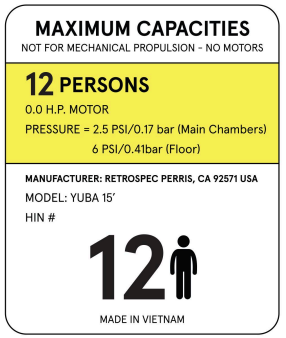
⚠ **Warning** — Do not consume alcohol or drugs before or during use. These impair your ability to safely operate this raft.

- Do not exceed your physical ability or skill level. Know how long you can paddle or swim before heading out, and stay within conditions that match your experience.
- Learn from a professional. Take a lesson or safety course from a certified local outfitter or accredited instructor before heading out on your own.
- Always paddle with others. Never go alone.
- Carry a whistle. Required by federal law beyond surfing and swimming areas. It lets you signal other boaters in an emergency.
- Stay hydrated and bring snacks. Paddling is physical work. Take care of yourself out there.

- Never use this raft after sunset without a waterproof flashlight. Required by federal law if you are on the water after dark.
- Always check the weather before heading out. Avoid severe weather, lightning, thunder, and strong winds. Currents, rapids, and water levels can change quickly.
- Scout unfamiliar rapids from shore before running them.
- If you capsize, hold onto your paddle, face downstream, and keep your feet up in front of you to fend off rocks. Swim to shore when it is safe to do so.
- Know your body of water. Check for hazards, hours of operation, and the nearest emergency help. Look up river class and water levels before you launch. Follow all local boating laws.
- Wear slip-resistant footwear. Deck surfaces get slippery when wet.
- Tell someone your plan. Share where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Pay attention to your surroundings. Stay away from dams, piers, pilings, rocks, and other hard objects or obstructions.
- Stay seated. Do not stand in the raft. Keep your center of gravity low when entering and exiting. Never jump or dive onto or off the raft.
- Inspect your raft before every use. Do not use it if you suspect a puncture or leak.
- Load your raft evenly. Distribute weight of passengers and gear so the raft sits level front to back and side to side. Uneven loading can cause capsizing.
- Never leave the raft in or near the water when not in use.
- Never tow the raft from any vehicle or motorized boat.

Capacity

Your raft is affixed with factory safety labels at key locations. Do not remove them.

Yuba 12'	Yuba 13'	Yuba 15'
		

Do not exceed the maximum capacity as shown on the inside of the raft. Make sure loads are distributed as centrally as possible and keep heavier items low.

Inflation and Setup

⚠ **Warning** — Do not use an unregulated air compressor, CO2 cartridge, or compressed air to inflate this raft. Exceeding the recommended pressure will permanently damage the raft and void the warranty.

Air pressure changes with temperature. In cold conditions, your raft may lose pressure. In hot conditions or direct sunlight, pressure can build up. Check and adjust PSI throughout the day.

1. Unrolling and Prep

Find a clean, flat surface.

Clear away any debris or sharp objects. Unfold your raft with the valves facing up.

2. Assembling the Pump

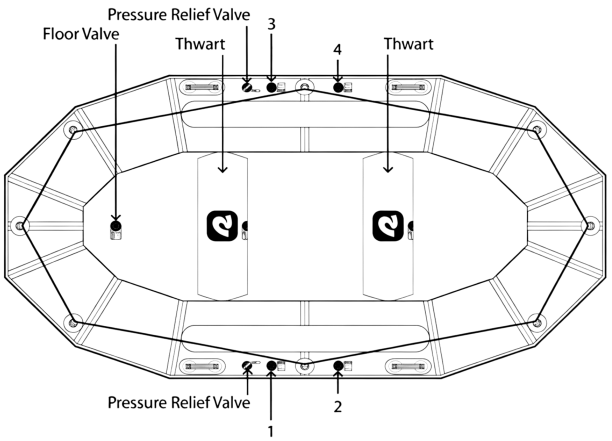
Screw the pump hose into the opening marked "Inflate" on the pump handle.

Your pump works for both inflation and deflation.

3. Inflating the Main Chambers

⚠ **Warning** — Before inflating, make sure each valve stem is in the UP (closed) position to keep air from escaping. If the stem is down and air is escaping, press and twist the stem until it pops back up.

1. **Prepare the valves.**
   Remove each valve cap. Check that each valve stem is in the closed (UP) position.
2. **Inflate the main chambers.**
   Starting with Valve 1, push the hose into the valve and twist clockwise to lock it on. Pump until the chamber starts to take shape. It should be filled out but not yet firm. Move



to Valves 2, 3, and 4 and repeat. You will top off all four chambers in step 6.

4. Inflating the Floor and Thwarts

1. **Inflate the center floor chamber.**
   Unscrew the valve cap and connect the hose. Inflate to 6.0 to 8.0 PSI. Make sure the floor is centered in the raft. Disconnect the hose and tightly secure the valve cap. Check pressure before each use.
2. **Inflate the thwarts.**
   Inflate each thwart to 2.5 to 3.5 PSI. Remove the hose nozzle and tightly secure the valve cap. Check pressure before each use.

5. Installing the Thwarts

1. Align the slots on the end of each thwart with the attachment slots on the raft chambers.
2. Slide the batten through all three slots to lock the thwart in place. Thwarts are easier to install and remove with the raft partially inflated.

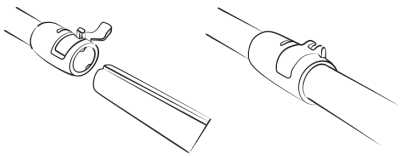
6. Topping Off and Final Pressure Check

1. Return to Valves 1 through 4 and top off the main chambers to 2.5 to 3.5 PSI.
2. Remove the hose nozzle and tightly secure each valve cap. Check all pressures before each use.

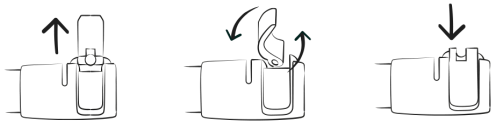
Tip: If chambers feel soft after sitting in cold water, add a little air. If the raft feels very firm in the heat, let a small amount out. Never exceed the maximum PSI.

7. Paddle Setup

How to Adjust & Tighten Your Paddle



Before use, rotate the lock to secure the handle.



1) Open Lock **2)** Rotate **3)** Secure Lock

The Yuba paddle is adjustable from 60" to 75". Here's how to size it for your position in the raft:

Your Height	Recommended Paddle Length
Under 5'6"	60" to 62"
5'6" to 6'0"	62" to 64"
Over 6'0"	64" to 66"

Bow (front) paddlers: Stand on a flat surface and measure from the ground to your mid-chest. Sitting low on the side tubes means a shorter paddle works better.

Stern (guide) paddlers: Measure from the ground to your collarbone. Guides sit higher on the stern tubes and need a longer paddle for reach and steering leverage.

8. Before You Hit the Water ✓

- ✓ All chambers inflated to correct PSI
- ✓ All valve caps tightly secured
- ✓ Thwarts installed and locked in place
- ✓ Raft visually inspected for damage or leaks
- ✓ Paddles assembled and adjusted to correct length
- ✓ Everyone wearing a US Coast Guard approved PFD
- ✓ Whistle and waterproof flashlight on board
- ✓ Weather and river conditions checked
- ✓ Paddling plan shared with someone on shore

Deflation and Storage

Proper care after each trip keeps your raft in great shape season after season.

Deflation

1. **Rinse the raft with fresh water.**
   Use a garden hose and a sponge with mild soap to remove sand, dirt, and sunscreen residue. Never use solvents, chemicals, battery acid, oil, or gasoline.
2. **Deflate all chambers.**

Remove the valve cap from each valve and press and twist the valve stem to lock it in the down (open/deflate) position. Deflate the floor, main chambers, and thwarts.

3. **Remove the thwarts.**
4. **Allow the raft to fully air-dry in a shaded location.**
   Never fold or store the raft while it is still wet. Moisture leads to mildew and mold.
5. **Fold the raft.**
   Fold the sides of the raft in toward the center, sectioning it into thirds. Then, starting at the end opposite the open valves, fold the raft over in sections until compact.
6. **Pack the raft into its carry bag.**
   Include the thwarts, pump, paddles, and repair kit.

Storage

Before storing, make sure the raft is completely clean and dry.

- Choose a cool, dry, well-ventilated location. Avoid direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- Do not hang the raft or place heavy or sharp objects on top of it.
- For long-term or off-season storage, fully deflate and dry the raft before putting it away. This extends the life of the raft and prevents issues from developing while it is not in use.

Repairs

Checking for Leaks

If you suspect a leak, check all valves first. There is a wrench in your repair kit that can tighten both valves and pressure relief valves (PRVs).

⚠ **Warning** — Do not attempt to loosen or tighten valves or PRVs while the chamber is inflated. This could result in injury.

Most air loss comes from valves, not punctures. Reinflate the chamber and check all valve caps before assuming a leak. Many "leaks" resolve with a properly tightened valve.

1. **Inspect for obvious holes**.
   If no visible damage is found, there may be a small pinhole.
2. **Find the pinhole**.

Inflate the chamber and submerge it in water. Look for air bubbles. You can also apply soapy water to the surface and watch for bubbling. If you use soapy water, fully rinse and dry the area before making any repair.

3. Repair the hole using the included repair kit.

Repairing Pinholes

1. Mark the location of the pinhole.
2. Deflate the chamber and dry the area completely.
3. Apply 1 to 2 drops of adhesive. Allow to dry completely (approximately 4 hours).
4. Do not inflate the raft for a minimum of 12 hours.

⚠ **Warning** — Wear protective gloves when handling adhesive. Keep glue away from skin, eyes, and children.

Repairing Small Punctures and Cuts

1. Wear protective gloves.
2. Clean the area around the damage thoroughly to remove moisture and dirt.
3. Lightly sand around the damaged area to roughen the surface for better adhesion.
4. Trim a repair patch to 1.25" (3 cm) beyond the damaged area on all sides. Round off the corners.
5. Lightly coat both the patch and the damaged area with adhesive.
6. Wait approximately 3 minutes until the adhesive is tacky. Center the patch over the damage and press firmly into place, smoothing out any bubbles or wrinkles.
7. Allow to cure for a minimum of 12 hours before inflating.

⚠ **Warning** — Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Wear gloves. Keep adhesive away from children.

Care and Maintenance

Rinse after every use: Rinse your raft with fresh water after every trip. Allow it to fully dry before folding or storing.

Sun and heat: Never store your raft, inflated or not, in direct sunlight or inside a closed vehicle. Excessive heat increases internal pressure and can cause damage. If you need to leave the raft in the sun temporarily, cover it with a towel, shade it, and release a small amount of air. Pump it back to full pressure before use.

Carry, don't drag: Always carry the raft. Dragging it over rough surfaces can damage the material.

Sharp objects: Keep all sharp objects away from the raft at all times.

Pressure relief valves: Your raft has PRVs on the main chambers. These are a safety release for occasional over-pressurization, not a substitute for proper pressure management.

UV protection: Apply 303 Protectant every season and before long-term storage to protect against UV degradation.

Folding: Fold the raft starting from the end opposite the valves, working toward the valve end, and allow it to deflate completely before folding.

Transport: Do not transport the raft fully inflated. Altitude changes increase air pressure and can damage chambers.

Warranty

All **retrospec** products are backed by a limited warranty. Scan the QR code or visit retrospec.com/pages/warranty-policy for full details.

retrospec™

Contact Us

Need some help with your new gear? Just want to say "hey" and talk to someone on our team? We're here for that too.

Give us a follow, while you're at it:
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