



ISSUE 06

BIG DUCK INFLATABLES

Magazine



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Big Duck Inflatables

<https://bigduck.com.au/>

First time inflatable boat owner mistakes (and how to avoid them).

Purchasing your first inflatable dinghy is an exciting moment. That “it’s on the way” notification lands, and suddenly it feels like a whole new adventure is heading straight to your doorstep.

There’s nothing quite like it, the anticipation, the unboxing, that first time your Big Duck takes shape in front of you. But like anything new, a few rookie mistakes can get in the way of that first experience. Nothing major, just small setup habits that can slow things down or stop you getting the best out of your boat straight away.

The good news? They’re easy to avoid once you know what to look for. So in this issue, we’re running through the most common first-time owner mistakes we see. And how to avoid them so your Big Duck experience starts the right way from day one.

1. Pumping the boat fully before installing the bench seats

This is one of the most common setup mistakes.

When the boat is fully inflated, everything becomes firm and structured, which is exactly what you want on the water, but not during setup. At that stage, it makes fitting bench seats and flooring unnecessarily difficult.

The Big Duck fix:

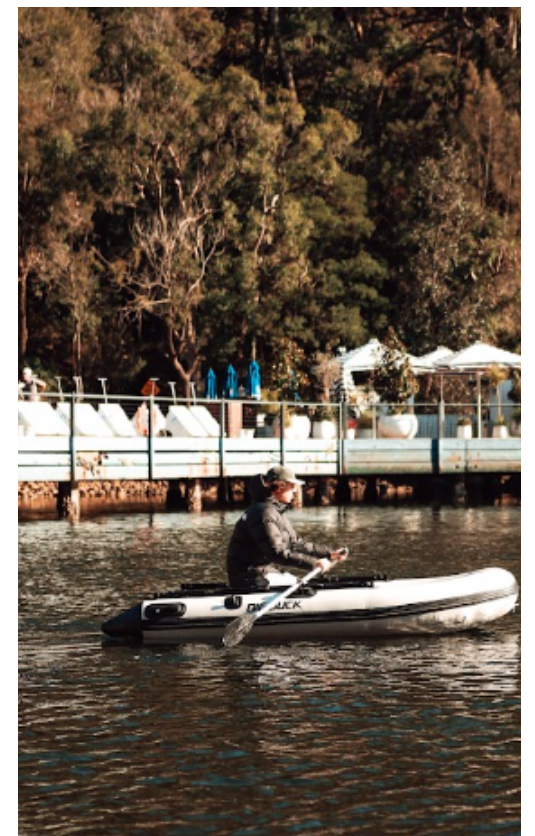
Inflate the boat partially first, install the seats and floor, then bring it up to full pressure afterwards. It keeps the setup smooth and everything fitting as it should.

2. Not checking that the valve is in the correct setting before pumping

If air rushes straight back out of your Big Duck immediately after you remove the pump, it's because the chamber valve has two settings and the valve needs to be 'clicked' into the correct setting.

The Big Duck fix:

To ensure your hard work isn't wasted, click the valves into the correct position before inflation.



3. Not rinsing the boat after saltwater use

After a great day on the water, it’s tempting to pack everything away and deal with it later.

But salt, sand, and debris can slowly build up over time, especially around valves and fittings.

The Big Duck fix:

A quick freshwater rinse after saltwater use goes a long way. It keeps everything clean, smooth, and ready for the next adventure.

4. Leaving the boat fully inflated in the sun

It's very common for first-time owners to finish setting up their boat and just leave it ready to go.

The only thing to be aware of is heat.

When exposed to direct sunlight, the air inside the tubes expands, increasing internal pressure. While Big Ducks are built tough and equipped with pressure relief systems, unnecessary heat exposure over long periods isn't ideal.

The Big Duck fix:

Avoid leaving your boat fully inflated in direct sun when it's not in use or not on the water.

If you like keeping things ready to go, a dinghy cover is a great way to protect it from UV and heat while still keeping setup simple.



5. Overinflating the boat

A very common rookie assumption is that tighter equals better.

But inflatable boats aren't designed to be pushed beyond their recommended pressure. They're engineered to be firm, stable, and structured, not over-stressed.

The Big Duck fix:

Stick to the recommended PSI. Big Ducks are built tough, but the best performance always comes from staying within the intended pressure range. PSI: 3.0–3.5 PSI for the main tubes.

6. Dragging the boat over rough ground

Big Ducks are built tough.

But even tough gear performs better when it's handled with a bit of care on land. One of the most common rookie shortcuts is dragging the boat across concrete, gravel, or rocks when launching or packing up.

It feels quicker in the moment, but it's not the best long-term habit.

The Big Duck fix:

Use dinghy retractable wheels wherever possible, especially if you're launching regularly. Big Ducks are built tough, but dragging any boat over concrete, gravel, or rocks can cause unnecessary wear over time. It might feel quicker in the moment, but it's not the best long-term habit. Retractable wheels make moving your dinghy easier and more efficient while helping protect your setup so it performs at its best for longer.

The Big Duck Takeaway

Every owner has a first season. A few setup mistakes, a few “didn't know that” moments — it's all part of it. But the goal is simple: less time figuring things out on land, and more time actually out on the water. Because Big Ducks are built for real use — tough, reliable, and ready for adventure. The smartest owners just learn how to get the best out of them from day one. And once you do, everything else gets a whole lot easier.