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## Tips for buying Toppers

- ⌘ Toppers got their name because they were designed to go on the top of a roof-rack.
- ⌘ They only weigh 43kg so lifting on and off is easy and the low weight gives them a sparkling performance for their size.
- ⌘ All Toppers have been made from the same mould and so are the most one design boat available.
- ⌘ Toppers are excellent junior and smaller adult boats. Lots are used for recreational sailing at the seaside on holiday. Thousands are raced hard.
- ⌘ The only difference between a 'standard' / beach type Topper and a full on race boat is the controls. The mast, sails, boom, rudder and daggerboard are all the same. A 'beach boat' can be made into a race boat for a reasonable price.
- ⌘ Topper hulls are made of polypropylene. This makes them virtually indestructible but only the best boats are not scratched. Scratching will not cause any constructional damage but they are hard to remove.
- ⌘ The rudder and daggerboards are very strong and can be smoothed very successfully with some hard work.
- ⌘ Fading and bruising of decks is not uncommon. Reds and blues are less often affected. Yellows fade the most. Purple and raspberry decks bruise most easily. Fading and bruising can be removed by the use of a hot air gun.
- ⌘ Leaks usually come from the mast cup, bailer, bung, painter hole and transom rudder fitting, rarely if ever from welded deck to hull seam. All can be repaired but a loose rudder plate requires an expensive repair, the fitting of a hatch, which is not allowed under class rules or a great deal of fiddling (see tip on fitting a new transom plate)
- ⌘ Once the mast cup wears away, the mast will wear its way through the deck mould and the boat becomes worthless. New cups are inexpensive but tricky to fit. It takes a lot of years to wear right through the cup.
- ⌘ Boats stored on their hulls will distort but this is only important if you are planning to race. Race boats should be stored on their decks or gunwales.
- ⌘ The hull plate (through which the dagger board goes) is usually split but is easily replaced. There is no watertight seal in this area
- ⌘ Early Toppers have cast transom rudder fittings made of aluminium. Later ones use stainless steel, which are better.
- ⌘ Hull splits can be welded by an expert
- ⌘ Early boats have thinner booms that are prone to breaking and not so good for racing.
- ⌘ All spares are readily available from a bung to a hull!