

ROMIDA



BAT CARE AND MAINTENANCE

A cricket player in a batting stance, wearing a helmet and holding a bat, is shown in a semi-transparent, golden-yellow overlay. The player is in a dynamic pose, leaning forward with the bat raised. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the text:

**LEARNING HOW TO TAKE
GOOD CARE OF YOUR BAT
IS THE MOST IMPORTANT
THING YOU'LL DO TODAY.**

WHY DO CRICKET BATS CRACK AND SPLIT?

Cricket bats are made from willow, which is a soft fibrous wood. The softness of the wood gives the bat excellent performance, but also makes it susceptible to damage. While manufacturers do what they can to create a bat that is robust as well as high-performance, all bats - even the most expensive - will eventually crack and need to be replaced.

Fortunately, you can help to mitigate the chances of your bat cracking prematurely by taking good care of it, both before its first use, and during its lifespan.

In this guide, we'll share our top tips and insider advice on the best ways to take care of your bat.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT US

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BUY THE RIGHT BAT

Buying the right bat for your height, strength and ability is important. Mishitting the ball (i.e. when the ball hits your bat on the edge, shoulder or toe) is one of the biggest causes of bat damage. If you're trying to play with a bat that doesn't suit you, you are more likely to mishit and damage your bat.

At Romida, we specialise in finding the right bat for every player. So if you're not sure which bat is best for you, pop into one of our stores and get some advice from our friendly team.

Note that a more expensive bat will not necessarily last longer. Expensive bats give the best performance, but are often softer and therefore even more susceptible to damage. It's better to focus on buying the right bat for you, rather than buying the most expensive bat.

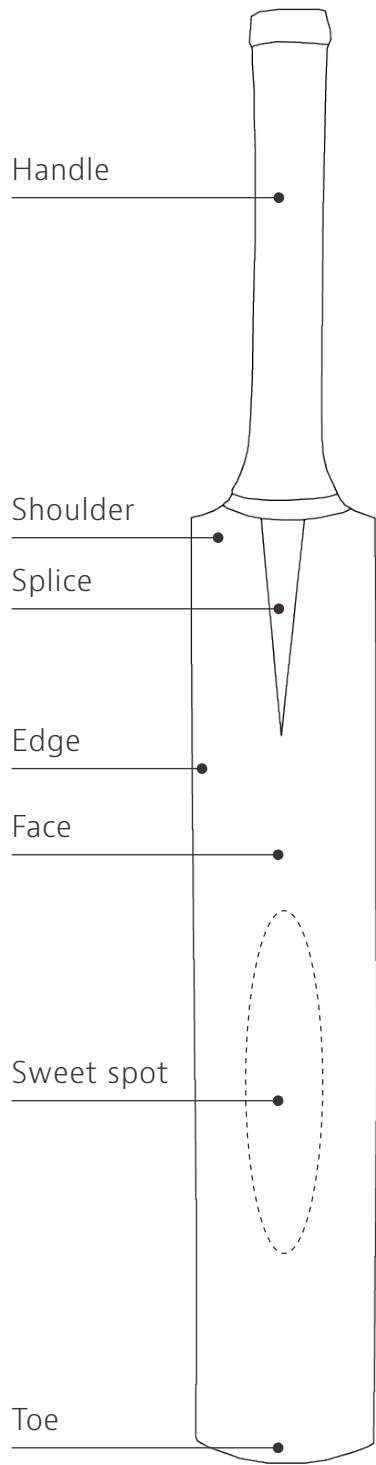
ANTI-SCUFF AND TOEGUARDS

We highly recommend buying a bat with an anti-scuff sheet and a toeguard, or having them fitted.

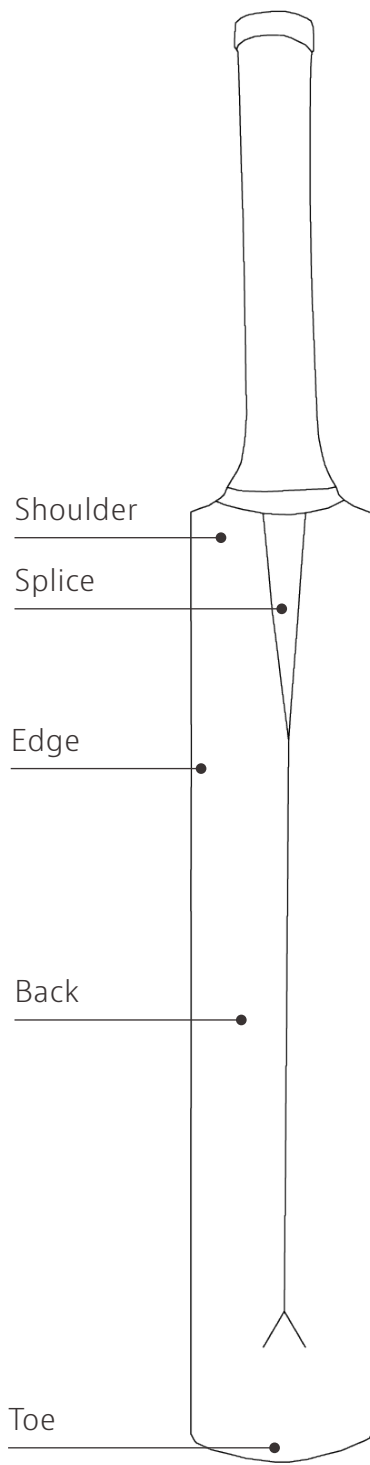
An anti-scuff sheet is a clear, thin, plastic coating that can be attached to the face of the bat. Used by most professional players, this coating can give your bat significant protection and prolong its natural lifespan.

A toeguard is an adhesive strip applied to the underside of the toe. It protects the bat against damage caused by balls that sneak in under the bottom of the bat (i.e. the yorker), and also from water penetration.

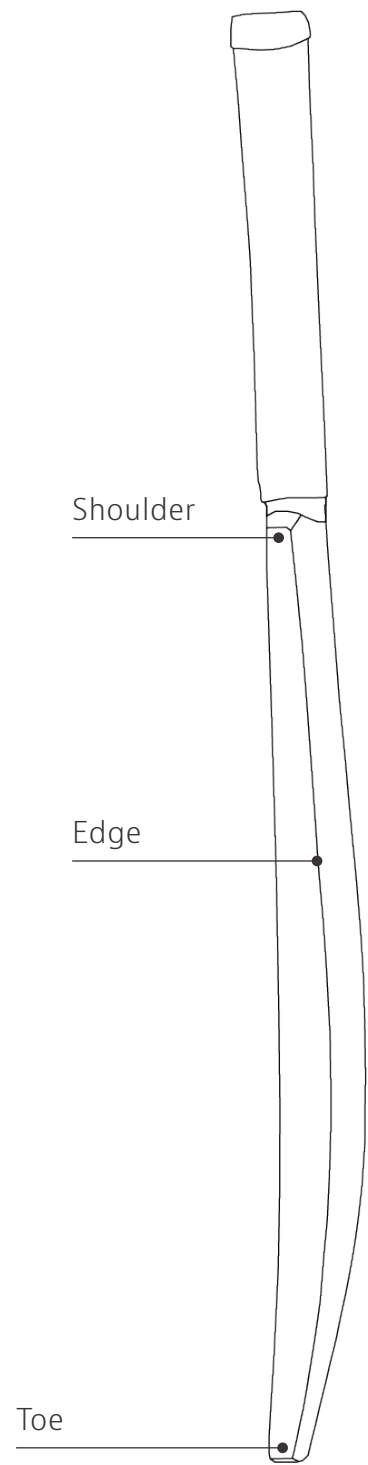
THE ANATOMY OF A BAT



Front



Back



Side

KNOCK IN YOUR BAT

Knocking in a new bat is the most important step in bat care.

Knocking in is the process of preparing your bat for its first use by carefully knocking it with a wooden bat mallet. This essentially conditions the surface of the bat and prepares it for later impacts.

Begin by lightly knocking the face of the bat with the mallet, carefully increasing the force over time. You have done enough when you no longer see marks being left by the mallet.

Knocking in is a precise art, so don't attempt it if you're not sure how to do it. Knocking in incorrectly may cause damage to your bat.

We offer an expert in-house knocking-in service for just £35 per bat (£50 if the bat is purchased elsewhere). Each bat is knocked in using a bat press with specially shaped rollers, and then finished by hand.

We also fit an anti-scuff coating and a toeguard. Please allow an extra 14 days for delivery if you choose this service. Give us a ring or pop into a store for more information.

PROFESSIONAL KNOCKING-IN

Get your bat knocked in by one of our pros in-store.

£35
PER BAT



THE CARDINAL RULES OF KNOCKING IN

- Always knock in a new bat before you use it. Regardless of the price and quality of the bat, every new bat needs to be knocked in.
- Even if your bat has an anti-scuff sheet and/or toeguard, you still need to knock in your bat before use.
- Don't trust "ready to play" bats. Some manufacturers sell bats they claim are ready to play without knocking in. Always knock in a new bat, regardless of whether it is marketed as "ready to play" or not.
- Use a proper bat mallet specifically designed for knocking in. Don't use any old mallet. You can buy these from us.
- Don't hit your bat too hard with the mallet. You may damage it.
- Don't hit the edges of your bat directly. While you do want to knock in the edges, do so at a 45° angle to simulate how the ball would hit the bat. Hitting the edge directly may cause damage.
- Don't hit the underside of the toe, back of the bat, or splice of the bat. Doing so may cause damage.
- As a general rule, concentrate on knocking in only the area where the ball will hit the bat.
- If in doubt, ask one of the Romida team for help.



OIL IT

Cricket bat oil keeps the willow supple and strong, and protects it from damp. We recommend oiling your bat around twice a year, or more frequently if it gets very dry.

However, it's important to not over-oil your bat. Too much oil will clog the natural gaps in the willow fibres and reduce the sponginess of the wood, which will impair the performance of the bat.

- Always use a proper cricket bat oil - you can't use any old oil on your bat.
- Apply oil to the face of the bat. Only apply oil to the toe if you do not require a toe guard to be fitted to the bat.
- Do not oil the shoulders or splice area, as this can cause the glue to weaken and the handle to come loose.
- There is no need to oil the back of the bat.

STORE IT

It's important to store your bat properly when not in use.

- Don't store your bat in a warm place. The ideal temperature is below 55°F.
- Don't leave your bat in its cover, as this will prevent it from breathing.
- Store your bat in a cool, moist (but not wet) place. A garage, washroom or laundry room is ideal.
- Don't store your bat in a place susceptible to standing water or flooding. Willow absorbs water like blotting paper. This will cause the wood to swell and split when dry.

DON'T MISTREAT IT

The way you treat your bat while playing will affect the longevity and condition of your bat.

- Don't use a new bat for indoor nets. The floors are very hard, and new bats are more vulnerable to damage.
- Don't constantly bang or tap the bottom of your bat on the ground (particularly on hard pitches / indoor surfaces), as this can damage the bottom of your bat. A toeguard will provide some protection here.
- Don't play in wet or rainy conditions - water is the enemy of the bat.
- Never lend your bat to someone else!
- Avoid solid centre cricket balls. Many manufacturers sell cricket balls with a solid centre, which are generally cheaper. These balls are extremely hard and are much more likely to damage your bat.
- Bat well! It goes without saying that you should always aim to bat well. If the ball consistently impacts the edge, splice or toe of your bat, it is much more likely to cause damage. Getting the ball in the centre of the bat (the sweet spot) is the best way to avoid damage from the ball.
- Never use your bat for any activity other than playing cricket. Don't throw it, drop it or hit things with it.

ASK AN EXPERT

If your bat cracks, breaks, splits or swells, talk to an expert. No bat will last forever, but steps can be taken to prevent the damage getting worse and, in some cases, the damage can be repaired.

Most bat damage is not the result of a manufacturing defect, but just inevitable wear and tear. While care and maintenance will prolong your bat's life, it will not make it invulnerable to harm.

Storage conditions, ball type, speed of delivery, the type of shots you play, and the hardness of the ground all factor into your bat's lifespan. As a result, bat manufacturers do not offer guarantees against damage or breakage.

GENUINE FAULTS

In very rare cases, there may be a manufacturing defect that has caused your bat to fail. In this case, a genuinely faulty bat will be replaced at the manufacturer's discretion. Dependent on age, usage, prep, care and maintenance, you may be offered a percentage towards a new bat if your bat cannot be repaired. Keep proof of purchase in case you need to contact the supplier or manufacturer.

At Romida, we only stock bats that pass our high standards. Every bat is tested with a lignum mallet by our experienced team to assess the level of hitting power. Across all of our price points, we offer a range of quality bats that are designed to give you great performance.



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