



BAT CARE

Your comprehensive guide to preparing, caring for, and getting the most out of your Slazenger Bat.



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The all important task of applying raw linseed oil to your bat, don't forget the toe.



A wooden bat mallet is best, remember to round off those edges of the face.



Toe guards are easy to apply and will help to prolong the life of your bat.



The application of a clear anti-scuff sheet will keep surface damage to a minimum.

FIRST STEPS

Give your new Slazenger bat a light sanding and a coat of raw linseed oil (natural face bats only), applying with a soft cloth. There is no need to oil the back or shoulders of the bat and please take care not to oil around the splice, as this loosens the glue. Please make sure you give the toe at least a couple of coats, this helps prevent water uptake into the bottom of your bat. Do not over oil, a couple of coats is ample. Repeat after a couple of weeks ensuring the bat is kept horizontal between oilings.

START KNOCKING IN

All Slazenger bats are pre-knocked in, but we still recommend some further preparation. The knocking in process, should really involve between 1 - 2 hours work before match use. Knocking in is the process of compressing and knitting together the willow fibres to prevent ball damage to the surface of the bat.

An old softer cricket ball or preferably a bat mallet should be used, concentrating on the face edges where a 'nick' might make contact with the bat. Keep working until they have a rounded and compacted appearance. Do not strike the side edges or toe of the bat. Force should be increased over the knocking in period.

BEFORE MATCH PLAY

Using an old cricket ball hit a few close catches or some throw downs in the nets. Once in full use, keep a close look out for any minor damage. Attend to any minor damage as it occurs with wood glue and fibre bat tape. Don't worry about 'crazy cracking' this is quite normal and will not adversely affect the performance of your bat. However the application of a clear anti-scuff sheet, will minimise any surface damage. Another useful addition for your bat is a toe guard as shown above. These protect against water uptake, friction so in our view will prolong the life of your bat.

STORAGE

When it comes to winter storage, give your bat a clean and a coat of oil and store it face up, laid down flat, in a cool, dry atmosphere. Please keep it away from radiators and any other heat sources.

DAMAGE

A bat may be damaged if for example the batsman edges a quick ball or digs out a yorker. In this case the bat must be put in for repair with a specialist bat repairer. Knocking in properly will, however reduce the risk of damage. Please ensure you purchase a bat which is appropriate to the level of cricket for which you intend to play.

HOW BATS ARE MADE

Slazenger bats are made from cane handles and willow blades. Slazenger's 9 piece handles are hand made and were developed over the years by Slazenger's F.I.C.A award winner master craftsman Eric Loxton. Using the finest cane, they provide the perfect combination of stiffness and flexibility for optimum performance. The wooden blades are made from either English Willow or Kashmir Willow.

DRYING THE WILLOW

Slazenger bats benefit from experts monitoring the important drying process constantly so that the optimum moisture content can be obtained at all times. This enables improved blade durability, reduced cracking and a unified weight distribution.

THE SHAPING OF THE BAT

Correct shaping of the bat ensures good balance and pick-up. This makes the bat feel light in the players hand. Pick-up is far more important than dead weight. A 12lb 11oz bat can feel very light based on the balance point on the bat and the profile.

THE PRESSING OF THE BAT

This ensures maximum rebound of the ball off the blade. English Willow, in its natural state is a soft fibrous wood. Slazenger season the willow before shaping and pressing the blade. At the pressing stage care is taken to strike a balance; the bat must be hard enough to withstand most impacts by the ball and yet soft enough to give good rebound of the ball on the blade. The softer the blade, the better the performance in terms of rebound but the blade is prone to dent. The harder the blade the worse the performance but the blade will be more durable.



www.slazenger.com

Slazengers Limited

Brook Park, Meadow Lane, Shirebrook,
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG20 8RY

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