



is recommended as it is not as cold on the hands.

Skegs (fins) - Skegs provide thrust and directional stability. Skeg placement takes place in constructed boxes on the bottom deck and are secured by pins and screw(s). Ancient boards used paper, which expands in water, wrapped around the skeg at the base inside the box thus holding them securely in place. Hitting the sand or rocks causes them to be lost easily though. This method can be used in an emergency if you have a broken pin or screw slot. Your whole wave riding experience with a board is affected by the skeg size, shape and positions.

By trial and error you can determine what makes the board easiest to turn but not slip out in a bottom turn. Generally waveskis have a tri-fin set-up with two smaller outer skegs and a larger centre skeg set further back toward the tail. Skeg placement is orientated around the belt position (side skegs behind the belt) and the back of the seat (centre skeg furthest forward position is below the coccyx).

Seat Belt - This is a critical safety device stopping you being washed off the board and having your ankles trapped resulting in injury. Seat belt also allows you to Eskimo roll which vastly increases your enjoyment of waveski surfing by not having to mount the board every time you fall over. A seat belt allows for controlled manoeuvres such as powered bottom turns which without a belt would not be possible. Re-entries and aerials where you get airborne are simply not possible without a belt. Use one from the start! Later we discuss how to work with one and become exercises to be confident using one without feeling trapped.

Leash - The only benefit of a leash is that you can hang on to the paddle when a wave comes and not lose the board. However a waveski caught in a wave becomes dangerous to other surfers and should always be held a leash does not stop the board accelerating before being restrained. Use a leash to retain the paddle and always hold the board by the footstraps with both hands facing nose first into the wave. Learn to Eskimo roll by contacting your local association. It's easy and you can get it right in a day or at most within a few weeks.