

## DINGHIES

# Hypalon vs. PVC

The fabric used for tube construction is usually categorized as either Hypalon (an elastomer developed by Dupont) or PVC (polyvinylchloride, a plastomer). These terms generally refer to the outer layer of a multi-layer fabric, the part that sees the most wear and tear. Although neither material is immune to UV degradation, Hypalon stands up better to the sun's harmful rays. Pennel Industries' Orca material, which carries a 10-year limited warranty, is a common Hypalon-type fabric used in inflatable boats. Zodiac touts its PVC material, Strongan, citing the ability to thermo-weld (as opposed to glue) seams as a chief advantage. A five-year warranty is usually the limit on a PVC boat. An obvious advantage of PVC is its lower price. However, if warm-climate durability is a priority, a well-made Hypalon boat is worth the extra money.



*The Zodiac Zoom (top) has tubes made of a proprietary PVC material, Strongan, while the tubes of the Avon Rover Lite 310 (bottom) are Hypalon.*