

# ***SpeedCoach***<sup>®</sup>

## **Wiring Installation Instructions**



**NIELSEN-KELLERMAN**

1 Creek Circle, Boothwyn, PA 19061 USA

web: [www.nkhome.com](http://www.nkhome.com)

email: [info@nkhome.com](mailto:info@nkhome.com)

Phone: 610.447.1555

fax: 610.447.1577

**Thank you for purchasing this SpeedCoach wiring system.** PLEASE take a moment to review these instructions before installing the wiring harness and impeller. Your SpeedCoach system should provide you with years of trouble-free service but we are always here to help if a problem arises. To order parts or accessories or obtain technical support, please call 610-447-1555. You may also e-mail orders to [orders@nkhome.com](mailto:orders@nkhome.com) and send questions to our support representatives at [support@nkhome.com](mailto:support@nkhome.com). Visit NK online at: [www.nkhome.com](http://www.nkhome.com).

***If you've never done this before, please read through all of these installation instructions before permanently installing any part of your SpeedCoach System.***

***The VHB ("Very High Bond") mounting tape used in this installation requires 24 hours to cure to its full bond. PLEASE avoid getting it wet (in other words, don't take your boat for a row) until fully cured. Failure to do this risks loss of your brand new impeller, or having to re-install parts of your system.***

***Wherever you will be installing VHB mounting tape, make sure to use the provided alcohol swabs to clean all oil and dust from the mounting surfaces. Avoid touching the VHB with your fingers as the oil on your skin decreases the bond strength.***

***IF you ever need to remove installed VHB, use a hair dryer to warm the VHB thoroughly, then peel very slowly from one edge to avoid damaging the surface.***

## SELECTING AN INSTALLATION LOCATION AND MOUNTING BRACKET

### ***SpeedCoach for a Rower:***

It's a good idea to think about where you want your SpeedCoach while you are sitting in your boat. Your mounting location should allow you to see the unit clearly and reach the top and bottom buttons, but still keep the unit out of the way of your hands, oar handle or paddle throughout the stroke. If you are using a SpeedCoach XL2 or XL4, make sure that you will be able to put the unit with the heart rate plug and/or antenna attached in the docking station with- out obstruction. There are four common mounting locations:

- On the foot stretcher plate between the shoes. This location is by far the most common and will generally require the use of a T-Bracket to raise the SpeedCoach above the end of your shoes. A few rowing shells are now equipped with an extended foot plate that provides a mounting location without the T-bracket.
- On top of a wing rigger. A wing rigger usually prevents access to the foot stretcher mounting location. The SpeedCoach is mounted in this location with an Angle Bracket attached with Dual-Lock tape to permit the bracket and wires to remain with the boat when the wing rigger is removed.
- On top of the deck. The SpeedCoach is mounted in this location with an Angle Bracket. Note that the Angle Bracket is shipped with Dual-Lock tape pre-installed. If desired, this tape may be peeled off and replaced with VHB mounting tape for a permanent installation on the deck.
- On the cockpit washboard or wall. In some boats, you may wish to mount your unit directly to the stern-most wall of the cockpit. The dock may be attached directly to the cockpit wall with no mounting bracket, or a T-Bracket may be used to raise the unit up.

### ***SpeedCoach for a Coxswain:***

In the coxswain's seat, the SpeedCoach will generally be used with a Cox-Box or Cox-Vox audio system. In most boats, there is sufficient room on the footrest next to the Cox-Box cup bracket. The mounting dock can generally be secured directly to the deck without the use of a mounting bracket. In a bow-coxed shell, be sure to choose a mounting location that will not obscure the coxswain's already limited view. Bow-coxed shells vary widely in their configurations, so you may need to be creative in finding a mounting location. Both the T-Bracket and Angle Bracket are made of aluminum, and will permit some careful bending to accommodate other mounting positions. Be careful not to bend the bracket more than once, or the metal will fatigue and break.

## INSTALLING THE MOUNTING BRACKET (IF USED)

The SpeedCoach wiring is shipped with no mounting bracket attached to allow you the flexibility to choose your mounting option. Make sure you have purchased the correct mounting bracket for the installation option you have chosen. To install the bracket, clean the mounting location thoroughly with an alcohol prep pad, peel the liner from the Dual-Lock or VHB tape, align the bracket on the mounting location, and press firmly.

### ***Install the T-Bracket:***

The pre-drilled holes in the T-Bracket are designed to allow easy installation of the bracket onto the bolts that are used to adjust the height of the footstretcher shoe plate. To mount in this location, simply remove one of the bolts, slide the mounting bracket onto the bolt in front or behind the plate, and replace the bolt.

If there is not a bolt already on the footstretcher that you can use, you may need to drill holes in the footstretcher and secure the docking station with a stainless steel bolt and nut or screw(s). Be sure your footplate is a solid material if you are using screws. It may be necessary to insert a small shim behind the stem of the T-Bracket to support it.

To mount the T-Bracket onto the washbox or cockpit wall, you may use VHB tape to avoid making holes in your boat. Try to maximize the contact area for the VHB as the stem of the mounting bracket takes a good deal of force when clicking the SpeedCoach into the mounting dock.

### ***Install the Angle Bracket:***

The Angle Bracket is designed to be mounted to the top of a wing rigger or the deck. The Dual-Lock tape allows you to remove the docking station from the wing rigger when you derig your boat. It's easiest to leave both pieces of Dual-Lock attached to the bracket when making the installation.



## INSTALLING THE SPEEDCOACH DOCK

Next you will mount the plastic dock on the end of the SpeedCoach wiring to the front of the installed mounting bracket or directly to the mounting location chosen. If installing the docking station on a T-Bracket, you may use a cable tie to secure the harness wires so they will stay out of the way when you are strapping your feet into your shoes.

1. Clean the mounting location thoroughly with an alcohol prep pad.
2. Peel the liner from the VHB tape on the wiring dock;
3. Align the dock on the mounting bracket or location and press firmly. Be sure to support the mounting bracket from behind while pressing the dock into place.



## MOUNTING THE SPEEDCOACH

Slide the SpeedCoach display unit onto the docking station until it clicks. Be sure that the lanyard is out of the way.

**NOTE:** To prevent the loss of your SpeedCoach in the event that it is bumped while you are rowing, loop the lanyard around the top of the T-bracket or some part of your shell and slip the SpeedCoach through the loop. (The lanyard is designed specifically for this purpose.)



## INSTALLING THE SEAT MAGNET & RATE SENSOR

The seat magnet and rate sensor work together to measure your rating while rowing. The magnet must pass within 3/4" of the sensor in order to register a rating, so it is important to make sure that the seat magnet and sensor are installed correctly.

The SpeedCoach can measure stroke rate without using the rate sensor by measuring the changes in boat speed throughout the stroke. To enable this feature, place the unit in 0-Stroke Mode, and make sure that you have an impeller on the boat. The stroke rate will not be as consistent or stable as with a seat sensor, but this method can be used as an alternative to the seat magnet and rate sensor (or as a troubleshooting test when your rate is not working properly.)

## ***Install the Rate Sensor (Black Sensor):***

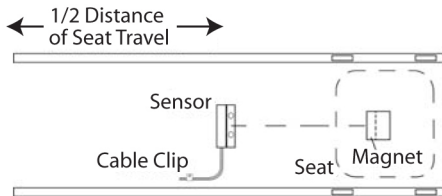
Refer to Figures 1a and 1b. Note the position of the sensor - it should be close to the center of the seat travel and it **MUST** be perpendicular to the long axis of the shell.

It is not necessary for the sensor and magnets to be centered between the rails as shown in Figure 1a. They may be positioned off center as shown in Fig 1b. However, the holes in the magnet assembly **MUST** pass directly over the holes in the sensor. The dashed horizontal line in each figure indicates the correct alignment.

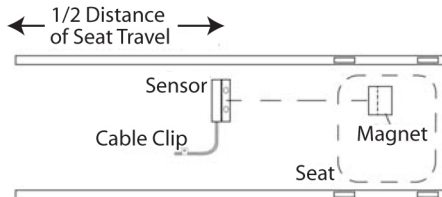
**PLEASE NOTE:** The sensor needs to be installed at the center of the seat travel. If the sensor is too close to either end of the seat travel, the SpeedCoach may indicate ONE- HALF the correct stroke rate.

The vertical spacing between the stroke sensor and the magnet assembly is critical. If the magnet passes too far from the sensor the sensor may fail to register every stroke, resulting in low readings. If the magnet is too close to the sensor, it may strike the sensor and knock one or both out of place.

Because the distance between the seat plate and the deck varies considerably from shell to shell, you should start by measuring this distance. Refer to Figure 2 on the next page.



**FIGURE 1a: SENSOR & MAGNET INSTALLATION**  
(Sensor Installed on Centerline of Seat)



**FIGURE 1b: SENSOR & MAGNET INSTALLATION**  
(Sensor Offset Centerline of Seat)

- If the distance measured as in Figure 2 is between 7/8" and 1 1/8", you may mount the sensor and magnet with no further adjustment.
- If the distance measured as in Figure 2 is GREATER than 1 1/8", you will need to make a spacer of appropriate thickness. You may choose to shim the sensor or the magnet; whichever is easier. DO NOT use any magnetic material for your shim. Many boat builders have shims designed to fit their particular seats.
- If the distance measured in Figure 2 is LESS than 7/8", the magnet and the sensor will interfere. Try mounting the magnet on the upper side of the seat plate or the sensor on the underside of the deck. As a last resort, you will have to remove material from either the seat or the deck (this almost never needs to be done).

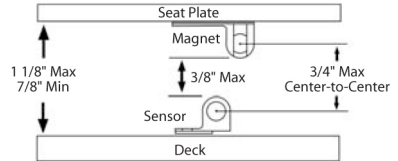
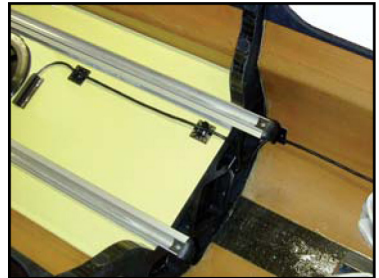


FIGURE 2: SENSOR & MAGNET SPACING

Check that the sensor cable is routed conveniently before mounting the sensor.

You can install the sensor and magnets semi-permanently by using the 3M VHB (Very High Bond) tape supplied. Should you wish to make a temporary installation, use electrical tape to affix the sensor. Use the alcohol prep pad provided to clean the area of the deck to where you will attach the sensor. Peel away the protective layers of the VHB double-sided tapes, and firmly press the sensor onto the cleaned area of the deck. Wait 24 hours before rowing to allow the VHB tape to fully cure.

Using the provided cable tie mounts, secure the sensor wire. If in the future you need to remove the wire, simply cut the cable tie and later use a new one to secure the wire.





## ***Install the Magnet:***

1. Remove and inspect the seat plate to find an appropriate place to mount the magnet.
2. Clean the mounting location thoroughly with an alcohol prep pad.
3. Peel the liner from the VHB tape on the magnet.
4. Align the magnet on the mounting location and press firmly.
5. Return the stroke seat to its slide and check that the clearance between the magnet and sensor is no more than 3/8" (refer to Fig 2). Check also that the magnets pass directly over the sensor (refer to Figures 1a, 1b).



**NOTE:** On seats without a sliding carriage (such as shown in the photo), there may be no seat plate for attaching the magnet. One option in this instance is to place the flange of the magnet assembly on top of the axle tube and secure the magnet with a few wraps of electrical tape.

## **INSTALLING THE HEART RATE SENSOR**

SpeedCoach XL2 and XL4 display units can measure heart rate when the heart rate sensor is installed and a chest strap is worn. The ideal location to mount the sensor is on the side of the boat, in line with the stroke rate sensor and oriented perpendicular to the stroke rate sensor. Try to mount the sensor so that the chest strap always remains within 3 feet of the sensor.

**NOTE:** At present, NK can only guarantee interference-free readings for XL heart rate monitors when there is only Stern ONE chest-belt transmitter within a 6-foot range of the heart rate sensor at any time. As a result, it is possible to use two monitors in most pairs or doubles by placing the stroke seat sensor close to the stern end of the seat deck, and the bow-seat sensor close to the bow end of the deck. In larger shells, the monitors and sensors will need to be at least two seats apart (i.e. at 2 and 4 seats, not at 2 and 3 seats). In larger team boats, it is likely that heart rate systems in adjacent seats will interfere with each other. (This includes having a rower wear a personal heart rate monitor in a seat adjacent to a rower using an XL2.)

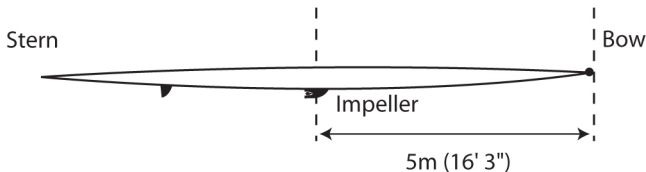
### ***Install the Heart Rate Sensor:***

1. Clean the mounting location thoroughly with an alcohol pad.
2. Peel the backing off the pieces of velcro on the heart rate sensor;
3. Press the sensor firmly onto the deck.
4. Secure the wire with the cable tie mounts. If in the future you need to remove the wire, simply cut the cable tie and later use a new one to secure the wire.



## **INSTALLING THE SPEED SENSOR & IMPELLER**

All boats produce a boundary layer of turbulent water from the bow to the stern. The closer you get to the stern, the more turbulent the water. The SpeedCoach unit is factory calibrated for correct readings with the impeller installed at 16'3" (5 meters) from the bow of the boat. This location will typically fall under the footstretches of a single, or around two seat of a larger boat. Installing the impeller in this location should yield accurate performance even if you don't calibrate your unit. You should avoid placing the impeller farther than 6 meters from the bow because the water will be too turbulent for the impeller to spin consistently, so accuracy will be compromised - even if calibrated. (See "CALIBRATION" section for instructions on how to calibrate.)



## ***Select the Impeller and Sensor Location:***

- You DO NOT need to drill holes through the hull of the boat to install the impeller and sensor. The sensor mounts to the inside of the boat, above the impeller, and communicates wirelessly through the hull.
- Measure 5 meters from the bow of your boat, and inspect your boat to select a mounting location for the impeller. Make sure to select a location where you will be able to mount the speed sensor directly above the impeller. Avoid sealed bulkheads, ribs and foot stretchers. The impeller does not need to be on the exact mid line of the boat, but must stay submerged. Keep the impeller parallel with the keel to minimize drag and steering effects.
- The impeller can be mounted permanently with the included VHB tape, or temporarily with electrical or packing tape. If you are planning on removing the impeller, you may wish to mark the location with permanent marker so you do not have to measure when you re-install.

## ***Install the Impeller (Semi-Permanent):***

1. Set the impeller on top of the hull in your selected location. Sight down the length of the hull to ensure the impeller is straight. Mark your mounting location with a permanent pen.
2. Clean the mounting location thoroughly with an alcohol prep pad (being careful not to remove your marks).
3. Peel the liner from one side of the VHB tape and align the VHB tape with your marks and smooth in place.
4. Peel the remaining liner from the VHB tape.
5. DOUBLE CHECK (it's easy to make a mistake here) that you have the curve of the impeller pointing toward the bow ball, and the impeller pointing toward the fin.
6. Align the impeller on the VHB tape and press firmly.
7. WAIT 24 HOURS BEFORE ROWING. The tape requires 24 hours to fully cure!



## ***Install the Impeller (Temporary):***

For borrowed boats, or if you plan to remove your impeller for racing, you may install your impeller temporarily with electrical tape. When installed properly with electrical tape, the impeller should not easily fall off your boat. However, check the tape regularly to make sure that it is still secured to the boat and is not beginning to peel off.

1. Set the impeller on top of the hull in your selected location. Sight down the length of the hull to ensure the impeller is straight. Mark your mounting location with a permanent pen.
2. Clean the mounting location thoroughly with an alcohol prep pad (being careful not to remove your marks).
3. CUT (do not tear - this stretches the adhesive and makes it less effective) two pieces of electrical tape approximately 7 inches long.
4. Place the impeller in its mounting location. DOUBLE CHECK (it's easy to make a mistake here) that you have the curve of the impeller pointing toward the bow ball, and the impeller pointing toward the fin.
5. Lay one long pieces of electrical tape on either side of the impeller, with approximately half of the width of the tape on the impeller mount flange and half on the hull. You should have approximately an inch of extra tape on each end that will affix solely to the boat.
6. Cut two 2 1/2" pieces of tape for the two ends of the impeller. Lay them on top of the ends of the mount flange, and across the two long pieces of tape.
7. Smooth all the tape thoroughly, ensuring there are no bubbles and full contact with the hull.
8. WAIT 24 HOURS BEFORE ROWING.



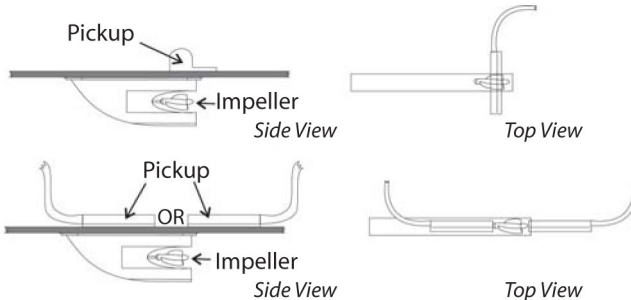
## ***IMPORTANT!***

While transporting your boat, it is important to secure or remove the impeller. The constant spinning will wear the magnet. You can either keep a cover on your boat while transporting, tape the impeller so it cannot spin, or unscrew the impeller from the hull mount.

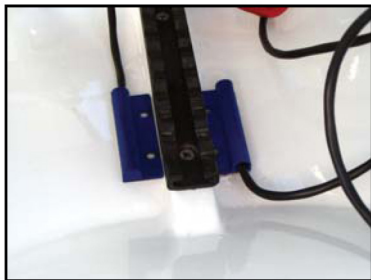


## ***Install the Speed Sensor (Blue Sensor)***

The sensor can be mounted parallel or perpendicular to the impeller. Either way is suitable; the impeller just must be within 2 inches of the impeller.



1. Clean the mounting location thoroughly with an alcohol prep pad.
2. Peel the liner from the VHB tape on the blue sensor.
3. Align the sensor directly above the impeller and press firmly.
4. If desired, secure the wires using cable ties and mounts. If you have extra wire, coil the wire and secure with a cable tie.



**NOTE:** Multiple sensors can be mounted around one impeller, simply mount them next to each other, or stack them on top of each other. (i.e. if you have a mounting harness in both seats of a double.)

## CALIBRATION

Calibration is an optional step that allows the display unit to compensate for different impeller locations and variations in hull shapes. If you need very accurate distance and speed measurements (to compare your performance with published results, for instance), calibration is a good idea. However, even if your unit is not properly calibrated, your SpeedCoach will provide you with valuable feedback on changes in boat speed, and you will be able to compare upstream and downstream pieces.

Your SpeedCoach has a factory calibration value of 1.000. To calibrate your system, you will be determining a new calibration value by comparing your SpeedCoach's distance reading with a known distance reading. On still water, row or paddle over your measured distance and record the distance displayed on your SpeedCoach. On flowing water, row or paddle over your measured distance both up and down stream and average the results shown on your display. Then, use the following formula to obtain your new calibration value.

$$\frac{(\text{CURRENT CAL VALUE})(\text{TRUE DISTANCE})}{\text{DISPLAYED DISTANCE}} = \text{NEW CAL VALUE}$$

**For example**, if you know you covered 1 mile, but your display shows 0.92, your calibration value will be:

$$\frac{(1.000)(1.00)}{0.92} = 1.086$$

PLEASE NOTE: Calibration is boat and impeller location-specific: if you move your unit to a new boat, or modify the location of your impeller, it is recommended that you recalibrate the unit.

# TROUBLESHOOTING

## ***General Troubleshooting:***

Always try to borrow a fellow rower's SpeedCoach or SpeedCoach Gold so that you can narrow down the variables. By testing your boat's wiring harness with a functional unit, and having your unit tested in a functional wiring harness, you can help determine where the problem lies. Make sure that both SpeedCoach units you are using have a calibration of 1.000 and are set to 2-Stroke Mode.

### ***My unit works in my friend's boat, but neither mine nor hers work in my boat:***

The problem most likely lies with your wiring harness or impeller:

1. Check to make sure there are no cuts, nicks or pinched areas along the wire (a flashlight will be helpful here).
2. Be sure that both sensors are aligned correctly.
3. Be sure that there is no debris or corrosion on the impeller and that it spins freely.
4. Check that the metal contacts on the mounting dock are flush with the surface of the dock.
5. Clean the metal contacts on the mounting dock with a non-abrasive cleanser, like Bon-Ami. DO NOT use solvents on the docking station as it may cause damage and voids the warranty.

### ***My unit doesn't work in my boat or my friend's boat, but hers works in my boat:***

The problem most likely lies with your SpeedCoach:

1. Inspect the metal contacts on the back of you SpeedCoach. Are all four above the level of the case? Do they spring back out when you press them in gently? Is their metal surface smooth and shiny?
2. Clean the metal contacts on your unit with a non-abrasive cleanser, like Bon-Ami. DO NOT use solvents on the unit as it may cause damage and voids the warranty. Is the battery door secure and well-sealed?
3. Is the unit window secure and undamaged?



4. Your unit may have been affected by an ESD (electro-static discharge). Perform a hard reset on your unit to clear the charge. To do so, open the battery door, remove the battery or batteries, and hold down both buttons for 10 seconds. Replace the batteries, make sure the o-ring is in place, and close the battery door. This is like rebooting your computer, and often fixes strange or erratic behavior of the display unit.

## ***Specific Problems:***

### **Speed or Pace Readings are Inaccurate**

#### *Is the Calibration Value Set Correctly?*

The calibration value should be set at 1.000 unless you have completed the necessary steps to recalibrate your unit.

#### *Is the Impeller Properly Installed?*

The impeller should be 5 meters from the bow of the boat. If the impeller is installed in a different location, the unit will provide incorrect information unless calibrated. The impeller should not be more than 6 meters from the bow, or turbulence may cause inconsistent performance.

#### *Does the Impeller Spin Freely?*

If the impeller begins to accumulate any debris or corrosion, it may not spin freely which will lead to inaccuracy. If you are unable to clear the debris, a new impeller can be purchased. The impeller may be unscrewed and replaced without removing the hull mount. Note: Any slight humming noise created by the impeller should fade within a week or so.

## **No Stroke Rate or Rate Seems Incorrect**

### *Is Unit Making Contact with the Bracket?*

The unit must have clear contact with contact pins on mounting bracket. Push the unit into the mounting bracket until a clear "click" is heard. Be sure the lanyard is not pinched in the bracket and interfering with the connection.

### *Are the Magnet and Sensor Aligned?*

Double-check the set-up and orientation of the seat magnet and black sensor, reviewing the illustrations on pages 7-8.

### *Is the Stroke Mode Correct?*

If your stroke rate consistently seems very high, almost double what it should be, the unit may be in single stroke mode (1-Str). Make sure unit is set in 2 stroke mode (2-Str).

### *Is the Unit in Memory Recall Mode?*

If there is no rate, time or distance displaying, make sure the unit has not been left in memory recall mode.

### *Is the seat sensor operating properly?*

In order to rule out a seat sensor failure, place the display unit in 0-Stroke Mode. This allows the stroke rate to be calculated based on the changes in boat speed, not the seat sensor. If the ratings return to normal, your wiring harness seat sensor may be failing. Contact NK for a replacement wiring harness.

### *Are the ratings very high and intermittent?*

Your unit may have been affected by an ESD (electro-static discharge). Perform a hard reset on your unit to clear the charge. To do so, open the battery door, remove the battery or batteries, and hold down both buttons for 10 seconds. Replace the batteries, make sure the o-ring is in place, and close the battery door. This is like rebooting your computer, and often fixes strange or erratic behavior of the display unit.

## ***NK Rowing Electronics Warranty & Service***

NK does not believe in “disposable electronics.” We know our products don’t lead a pampered life, and we design them for years of performance in tough conditions. We guarantee every NK product to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of TWO YEARS from your date of purchase. We will repair or replace any defective product or part when notified within the warranty period, and will return the product via domestic ground shipping at no charge. The following issues do not result from a manufacturing defect and are not covered under this warranty: damage due to improper use or neglect, including corrosion; impact damage; modifications or attempted repairs by someone other than an authorized NK repair agent; normal wear and tear; failed batteries.

NK wants you to be an NK customer for life, so we take care of you even beyond the terms of the normal product warranty with our Customer Care Program. Trade-in any NK display unit, no matter the age or condition, and receive a generous discount on the replacement product.

Visit [www.nkhome.com](http://www.nkhome.com) at any time for detailed product specifications, troubleshooting and online ordering.

## **NEED HELP?**

**Our NK Knowledge Center has answers to many common questions, along with tips and tricks for using NK products. It's available 24-7 at [www.nkhome.com/knowledgecenter/](http://www.nkhome.com/knowledgecenter/).**

**For email assistance with the installation or operation of your NK product, write [techsupport@nkhome.com](mailto:techsupport@nkhome.com).**

**For help with an apparent malfunction, or to arrange or inquire about a repair, write [repairs@nkhome.com](mailto:repairs@nkhome.com).**

**Or call 800.784.4221 (610.447.1555 outside of the USA),  
Monday to Friday, 9 to 5.**