LEKI.CO.UK Pole Care and Maintenance.

PROBLEM / QUESTION	CHECK	SOLUTION
General Care & Maintenance		Always separate the poles by pulling apart with a sharp action after use in wet conditions. Wipe them clean if muddy and leave to dry out thoroughly before putting the pole back together. Users often have a reluctance to do this; please be re-assured that it is quite safe to pull apart the pole sections. Leki design is very simple and effective - they are designed to be field maintainable and require no special tools to adjust or repair.
Poles stick when adjusting.	Check the pole for bent sections.	Pull the pole sections apart and gently roll them across a flat table top. Even a slight bend may cause the poles to jam together. It may be possible to straighten a slight bend, but usually a new section will be required.
	Are the sections dented?	Dents in the pole sections, even if only slight, will cause them to stick. Replacement sections are available.
SAS (or SAS-lite) action is not smooth and sticks when compressed.	The plastic collar at the joint where the sprung section slides may be tight or distorted. Also check for bent sections (see above).	In some cases this collar can be too tight. Loosen and pull the upper section away from the middle section. Now… check the action of the SAS; if it is moving smoothly with no "catches", then it is the collar that is restricting it's action. Just ream the collar from the inside using the pole tip (the Carbide Flexitip) in order to stretch the collar from the inside. The SAS may need some time to "bed in" and should loosen with frequent use.
Pole doesn't lock when twisted	Has it been oiled / lubricated?	Wash with mild detergent, rinse and dry thoroughly.
	Has the expander been undone too far?	Pull the section out to check the expander is not stuck against the end of its thread. Expanders should fit snugly inside the tube when reassembled to ensure enough friction against the inside of the tube to prevent it from turning. Replacement expanders are available.
	Is the expander too slack?	Pull the pole section out and check that the red "rocket" moves up the thread of the screw. Make sure you hold the plastic expanding jacket that covers it as you do this. If the rocket is stuck at the base of the thread, remove the detachable expander covering and release the rocket using pliers. **Remember that the rocket is on a reverse thread i.e: turn it CLOCKWISE to LOOSEN it.**
	Corroded threads.	Pull the sections apart and check for corrosion on the threads of the expander mechanism. This can be cleaned with a piece of wire wool. If the corrosion is severe a new section may be required. Corrosion is caused by storing the pole in a wet condition.
	Is the expander still attached? (Classic system only).	If the expander has been unscrewed too far it may still be lodged in the covering shaft of the pole. It can usually be retrieved by pushing the pole section back into the covering shaft, turning the inner pole ***clockwise*** and then pulling the pole back out so that the screw can be fully tightened.
	Broken adjuster mechanism.	If the expander has snapped off then there may be a fault in the pole and / or the pole has been misused in some way and the section will need to be replaced.
	Are you twisting the pole in the correct direction?	Holding the upper section of the pole (the one with the handle on it) in the left hand twist the lower sections with the right hand: Clockwise to tighten and lock the pole sections into place.

	On ELS or SLS poles check the red "rocket" of the expander mechanism.	If the thread has stripped on this part the whole section will need to be replaced. Stripped threads are caused by corrosion or over-tightening. ELS and SLS poles only need to be tightened with the fingers until they grip. It is not necessary to keep turning so they can't be turned further.
Poles are difficult to adjust.	Check for white powder inside the poles.	White powder is Aluminium oxide and is caused by storing poles in a wet condition. This may also cause corrosion on parts of the locking mechanism. Oxide can be removed by immersing the poles in soapy water and running the sections up and down inside each other vigorously. Rinse the poles with clean water and dry thoroughly. Never apply solvents or lubricants to any part of the pole.
	Was it sticking during use in extremely cold conditions?	This happens with most equipment used in extremely cold environments due to ice build up. Try tapping or flexing the poles occasionally during use to avoid ice build up. The new Speedlock is more effective in these kind of conditions than the Classic or SLS system.
Speedlock poles slip or are dificult to adjust.	Speedlock mechanism may need adjusting.	Open the lever and loosen the knurled adjuster. A large flat screwdriver or back of a blade may be needed. Adjust a quarter turn at a time till the desired action is achieved.
Strap comes off	Has strap become separated from handle?	Strap wedge and locating pin will need to be reinserted into handle
	Has it snapped and during what kind of use?	This should never happen during normal use, but should break during, say, a fall ; replacements can be purchased as spares.
Carbide Flexitip needs replacing	Is it used on paths and roads a lot?	Consider using a rubber ferrule to extend life of tip; tip will need replacing. If you have difficulty in getting the tip off, try heating it in boiling water.
	Did it come off during use?	The Carbide Flexitip should not come off during normal use; however, it is not usually* glued on and is designed to come off under stress, e.g., when caught in a rock crack. This reduces the likelihood of the pole actually snapping. The tip will need replacing - make sure the replacement is tapped in to position firmly on a solid surface. *The Flextip may be glued in place on some models with a very glossy finish
Rubber grips have become sticky		Old rubber covered plastic grips may become stick as they get old. This stickiness can be removed with Isopropyl Alchohol
Is there a guarantee?		There is a 2 year warranty against **BREAKAGE** of the pole shafts on all models sold up to 2003. Poles from the 2003/04 range have a 5 year guarantee against breakage. Please note that *breakage* is not the same as *bending*!
		Leki also guarantee to hold spares for every individual model for 10 years past it date of manufacture.
Repairs and spares.	leki.co.uk	It is not economical for us to offer a postal repair service. Repair and maintenance of poles does not require any special tools. Spare parts are readily available and can be fitted by most people without any in-depth technical knowledge.