

LIFE JACKET SELECTION, USE, WEAR & CARE


The researches show that most of the victims drowned had not been wearing “life jackets” and none of the fallen overboard victims had not been wearing life jackets.





Don't Become A Statistic, Wear A Life Jacket.

TYPES OF LIFEJACKETS:

Life jackets are classified in 3 classes according to their floatation material/method and 5 types according to the area of usage.

Classification of Life Jackets According to Floatation Material/Method		
Inherently Buoyant (Primarily Foam)	Inflatable	Hybrid (Foam & Inflation)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adult, Youth, Child and Infant sizes. ▪ For swimmers & non-swimmers. ▪ Some designed for water sports ▪ Wearable & throwable styles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The most compact. ▪ Sizes only for adults. ▪ Only recommended for swimmers. ▪ Wearable styles only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reliable. ▪ Adult, Youth and Child sizes. ▪ For swimmers & non-swimmers. ▪ Wearable styles only. ▪ Some designed for water sports

Classification of Life Jackets According to the Area of Usage	
<p>TYPE I: OFFSHORE LIFEJACKETS</p> <p>When cruising, racing and fishing offshore or boating alone or in stormy conditions.</p> <p>Best for open, rough, or remote water where rescue may be slow to arrive. Will turn MOST unconscious wearers face-up in water.</p> <p>Offers the best protection, but is somewhat bulky and uncomfortable. Does the best job of retaining body heat, as it has additional foam and fabric, and keeps, your head higher above water.</p>	

<p>TYPE II: NEAR SHORE BUOYANT VEST</p> <p>Good for protected, inland water near shore, where chances of immediate rescue is good. Not suitable for extended survival in rough water. Will turn SOME unconscious wearers face-up in water. Poor performer in rough water, often requires you to tread water in order to keep your head above water.</p> <p>More comfortable but less buoyant than Type I. Provides far less flotation than Type I.</p>	
<p>TYPE III: FLOTATION AID</p> <p>Supervised activities, such as sailing regattas, dinghy races, water skiing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and during personal watercraft operation.</p> <p>Good for protected, inland water near shore, where chance of immediate rescue is good.</p> <p>Not suitable for extended survival in rough water. Not design to turn unconscious people face up in water.</p> <p>More comfortable to wear than a Type I or Type II, but provides far less flotation than a Type I.</p>	
<p>TYPE IV THROWABLE DEVICE</p> <p>A Type IV is designed to be thrown to an overboard victim or supplement the buoyancy of a person overboard. It is not to be worn.</p> <p>A Type IV throwable device can be a square style or a ring buoy or horseshoe buoy mounted on deck.</p> <p>A Type IV is not for unconscious persons, non-swimmers or children.</p>	
<p>TYPE V: SPECIAL USE DEVICE</p> <p>Restricted to the special use for which each is designed, for example: sailboard harness, deck suit, paddling vest, commercial white water vest or float coats.</p> <p>A Type V lifejacket provide performance of either a Type I, II, or III lifejacket (as marked on its label) and must be used according to the label requirements.</p>	

LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES

Lifejackets are the proven number one way to save life in the event of sudden, unexpected capsizing or fall overboard.

“There are **no excuses** not to wear a life jacket onboard”

Fit Facts

Certain life jackets are designed to keep your head above water and help you remain in a position which permits proper breathing.

Adult-sized life jackets will not work for children. To work correctly, a life jacket must be worn, fit snugly, and not allow the child’s chin or ears to slip through.

It is extremely important that you choose a properly fitting life jacket. Jackets that are too big will cause the flotation device to push up around your face, which could be dangerous. Jackets that are too small will not be able to keep your body afloat.

Make sure the jacket is properly zipped or buckled.

Raise your arms straight up over your head while wearing your life jacket and ask a friend to grasp the tops of the arm openings, gently pulling up.

If there is excess room above the openings and the jacket rides up over your chin or face, it does NOT fit properly. A snug fit in these areas signals a properly fitting life jacket.

Be sure it’s right for you, your planned activities and the water conditions you expect to encounter.

“The best life jacket is **the one you wear**”






Life Jacket Selection

Within the context cited above, the selection of an appropriate life jacket generally depends on the weight of the person who will wear it, flotation material/method preferred, usage area (offshore, near shore, sailing regattas, dinghy races, water skiing, fishing, canoeing and etc.).

In general a person weighs 10% of his weight on earth while submerged in water at the level of his chin. On earth, a mass of 1 kg enforces nearly 9.8 N to the object which is under it.

For example; the body of a person who weighs 100 kg consists of 80% water, 10% fat and etc., so only the rest 10% means weight in water. Therefore that person needs a life jacket which can float 10 kgs in water.

Minimum Flotation Forces (N) Required for an Average Adult

Flotation Material/Method	Type of the Life Jacket				
	I	II	III	IV	V
	Offshore	Near Shore	Flotation Aid	Throwable	Special Use
					

Inherently Buoyant	100 N	70 N	70 N	-	70 N -100 N
Inflatable	150 N	150 N	100 N	-	100 N-155 N
Hybrid	-	-	-	-	Inflated 100 N Deflated 34 N
Ring Buoy	-	-	-	75 N	-
Boat Cushions	-	-	-	82 N	-

ACCESSIBILITY

Life jackets must be properly stowed.

Life jackets must be in good and serviceable condition.

You must be able to put them on in a reasonable amount of time in an emergency (vessel sinking, on fire, etc.)

They should not to be stowed in plastic bags, in locked or closed compartments or have other gear stowed on top of them.

Throwable devices must be immediately available for use.

HOW TO CARE YOUR LIFE JACKETS

Life jackets should be tested for wear and buoyancy at least once each year. Waterlogged, faded, or leaky jackets should be discarded.

The amount of buoyancy (and life-saving value) your life jacket provide will decrease overtime. Treat your life jacket as if your life depends on it!

Make sure that there are no rips or tears in the fabric.

Don't use harsh detergents or gasoline to clean it.

Store in area with good ventilation.

If wet, allow it to dry thoroughly in open air before storing. Drying it in a dryer, in front of a radiator, or other source of direct heat will destroy its buoyancy.

Don't use a life vest or throwable flotation cushion as a kneeling pad or boat fender.

"A lifejacket should be worn at all times onboard. It can save your life only if you wear it"