

FIT FACTS

The first sign of a rookie boater is someone who is wearing a life jacket that doesn't fit! Choose a life jacket that fits properly.

- You don't want your life jacket too large or too small. **A snug fit is a proper fit.**
- Make sure the life jacket is properly fastened and all straps, buckles, and zippers are secure and accessible.
- Hold your arms straight over your head and ask a friend to grasp the tops of the arm openings and gently pull up. If it doesn't slip, it fits.



REMEMBER!

Life jackets for adults **do not** work for children.



WHAT IS A LIFE JACKET?

REQUIREMENTS

Most boaters know they're required to have a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket on board for every person on their boat. Boating safety advocates recommend all boaters and passengers not only have a life jacket, but **wear it at all times while boating.**

TODAY'S OPTIONS

Modern life jackets are more comfortable, lightweight and stylish than the bulky orange style of the past. Life jackets that use inflatable technologies are cool and comfortable. They may resemble a pair of suspenders or a belt pack. Many inflate automatically when immersed in water.

READ THE LABEL

To choose a life jacket providing the right comfort and safety, you need to know how a life jacket works and how to read the label. Life jackets you may already own may have the old "type" life jacket label (Type I - Type V). This brochure explains the new life jacket label. The new label does not make obsolete life jackets with the old label (you can continue to use your life jacket as long as it is in good condition and appropriate for the activity).



The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) was organized in September 1958. The NSBC serves as a national catalyst for developing a safe boating culture by providing educational resources, outreach programming, and training opportunities for industry partners and the boating community to influence safe, secure, and responsible boating.

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SAFEBOATINGCOUNCIL.ORG



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

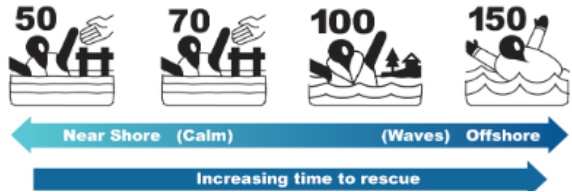
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CHOOSE THE RIGHT LIFE JACKET

When choosing a new life jacket, you will see a new label on the inside of the device. Life jackets with the new labels are approved for use in the United States and Canada, whereas devices with the old labels continue to be approved in one country or the other, not both.

KNOW YOUR NEWTONS

The performance level is measured in newtons. A lower level number offers more mobility, comfort, and style with good flotation, and intended for near shore (calm water) activities. The higher level number offers greater flotation, turning, and stability in the water. These are intended for offshore activity, and when more time is needed in rescue situations.

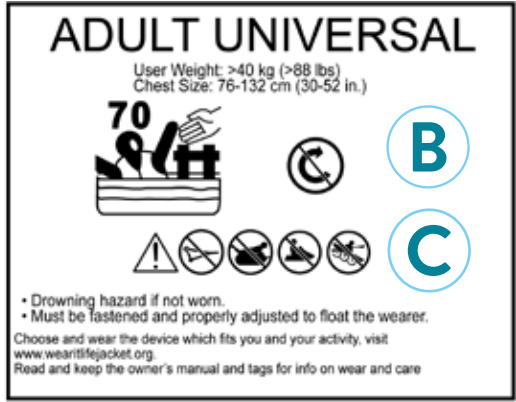


NEAR SHORE, OFFSHORE, BE SURE!

Remember, time to rescue is important. If your boating activity is **near shore**, your life jacket may be rated at **50 newtons**. If you're boating **offshore**, you would consider a life jacket with a **150 newtons** rating. However, there are areas where you may be boating near shore when rescue is hours away and a higher level life jacket is needed.



HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT LIFE JACKET



Company Name Company Address Company website if available Made in XXXXX USCG Approved 160.064XXXXXX TC Approved XXXXXXXXX ANSI/CANAL 12402-S Model: XXXXX Style: XXXXX Lot No: XXXXX	Use: Fasten all closures and adjust for a snug fit. Inspection: Inspect your life vest before each outing. Do not use if your life vest shows signs of weathering, damage, or rot. Care and Storage: Dry thoroughly after each outing. Store in a dry, cool place out of direct sunlight.
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A

Approval information

All life jackets that are U.S. Coast Guard approved have an approval number—look for this number on the label to ensure your life jacket or buoyancy aid is U.S. Coast Guard approved to meet the law, and is safe.

B

Turning unconscious person face up

It is a misconception that if a life jacket is U.S. Coast Guard approved it will automatically turn a person face-up. This is NOT true. Select a life jacket with this icon on the label to ensure it will turn you face up, and then take to a pool or protected waters and test your life jacket.

C

Towing sports

Some life jackets are not approved for towing sports such as tubing, water skiing or wakeboarding.

Operating a Personal Watercraft (PWC)

Some life jacket labels specify not approved for operating a Personal Watercraft.