

Personal Flotation Devices Infographic

BOATER SAFETY TIP - PFDs AND YOUR SAFETY
Personal Flotation Devices, also known as PFDs or Lifejackets, have the potential to save lives... that is, if you wear one.

PFDs ARE REQUIRED ONBOARD ALL VESSELS.

An off shore life jacket is suited to all waters – especially open, rough waters, where a rescue can easily be delayed.

Type I

Type II

Type III

Type IV

Type V

The **near shore life jacket** is best suited to calm, inland waters where there is a good chance of an easy rescue.

Flotation Aids come in a wide variety of styles – but basically possess the same buoyancy as a Type II.

A throwable device is only intended to be used in calm, inland waters with high traffic, where help is available.

Some **Deck Suits** provide hypothermic protection – while others are only approved when worn. Check the Label!

Your PFD must fit properly to work properly...

- To ensure the proper fit – have the wearer put on the PFD and adjust straps as necessary to ensure a snug fit.
- A properly fitted PFD will not ride higher than the ears or mouth of the wearer.
- Test PFDs in the water to ensure they can hold your weight. You should get used to swimming with a PFD.
- A PFD IS ONLY EFFECTIVE IF YOU ARE WEARING ONE!**

Self-inflating PFDs are effective and comfortable. Pulling the “rip cord” activates a CO₂ cartridge, which rapidly inflates the vest. Always replace your cartridges once they have been fired.

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