

LIFE JACKET FACTS



The best life jacket is one you wear!

REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket on board for every person on the boat
- Boating safety advocates recommend all boaters and passengers wear a life jacket at all times while boating

READ THE LABEL

- Look for the USCG approval number
- Learn what recreational water activities are appropriate for your life jacket
- Find out how to care for and maintain your life jacket

PROPER FIT

- All straps, buckles, and zippers should be secure for a snug fit
- Hold your arms straight up over your head and gently pull up – if it goes above your ears, it is too big
- Never buy a life jacket for someone to grow into



MAINTENANCE

- Use properly
- No rips, waterlogging or mildew
- Dry after each use
- Hand wash in mild detergent
- Store in a dry place when not boating
- Life jackets with a tear, broken pieces, or buoyancy loss should be disposed

LIFE JACKET STYLES

INHERENTLY BUOYANT

- Use foam or other buoyant materials to stay afloat
- Available in a variety of colors, styles, and sizes
- Options for adults, children, and pets of all sizes
- Features buckles and clasps for a snug fit



INFLATABLE OPTIONS

- Uses inflatable technologies
- Must be 16 years of age or older
- Recommended for strong swimmers
- Many inflate automatically when immersed in water – others only inflatable when a cord is pulled
- Require additional maintenance



CHILDREN'S SIZES

- Available in bright colors and cartoon characters
- Safety features such as head support and additional strap to pull a child out of the water
- Never buy a life jacket for a child to grow into



PET OPTIONS

- Don't forget your four-legged friends
- Look for a style with a handle on top to easily pull your pet out of the water



www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com



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