

NEWS

Oregon State Marine Board
Oregon's Recreational Boating Agency



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Types of Personal Flotation Devices



Type I PFD: This offshore life jacket provides the most buoyancy. It is effective for all waters, including open, rough or remote waters. It is designed to turn most unconscious wearers in the water to a face-up position. The Type I style comes in two sizes: adult and child and provides a minimum of 22 pounds and 11 pounds of buoyancy, respectively.



Type II PFD: This near-shore life jacket is intended for calm, inland water. This type will turn some unconscious wearers to a face-up position, but not as effectively as a Type I PFD. An adult size provides 15.5 pounds of buoyancy, a medium child size provides 11 pounds, and the infant and small child sizes both provide at least seven pounds.



Type III PFD: Like the Type II PFD, this life jacket is intended for calm, inland waters. It is designed so that wearer must put themselves in a face-up position. The Type III has the same buoyancy as a Type II PFD. Some Type III PFDs are designed to be inflated once entering the water.



Type IV PFD: This PFD is intended for calm, inland water with heavy boat traffic. It is designed to be thrown to a person in the water and held by the user until rescued. It is not designed to be worn. Type IV PFDs include buoyant cushions, ring buoys and horseshoe buoys.



Type V PFD: This life jacket is intended for specific activities (such as white water rafting) and may be carried instead of another PFD if used according to the approved condition on the label. Some Type V PFDs must be worn to count toward carriage requirements and others are designed to provide hypothermia protection.