How to properly fit a life jacket

1. A life jacket should not rise up more than 1” away from your shoulders.
2. Zip up any zippers completely.
3. Fasten buckles and tighten straps.
4. Be sure the jacket fits snug, but not too tight.
5. Don’t forget the strap that buckles between your legs!

Children age 12 and under must wear a life jacket when a boat is moving (underway).
- Life jackets must be U.S. Coast Guard approved.
- Life jackets must be in good condition and the right size for the person wearing it.
- If the life jacket has a strap that goes between the legs, make sure you can sit comfortably and when standing the strap is not too low. The strap between your legs will help keep the life jacket on you.

Visit www.BoatOregon.com to learn more about life jackets!
What is a boat?

A boat (watercraft) is anything that can be used or is capable of being used as transportation on the water.

- **port** – left side of the boat when looking forward
- **hull** – the main body of the boat, including the bottom and sides
- **starboard** – right side of the boat when looking forward
- **freeboard** – the area between the waterline and the deck of the boat
- **bow** – front of the boat
- **all-around white light** – the back light on the stern
- **stern** – back of the boat
- **red light** – light on the port side of the boat’s bow
- **gunwale** (pronounced like “gun-nel”) – the area along the top sides of the boat
- **green light** – light on the starboard side of the boat’s bow

Label the parts of a boat and color the boat.
Boating is so much fun

You can boat on an ocean, river, or lake...

You can water ski, wake board, wake surf, or get pulled on a tube...

You can go fishing, hunting, or just explore... Whatever you do, 

BOAT SAFE and have FUN!

Word Search

rq f r i v e r a h c w n n o
capsizing max our
tg n i f r u s e k a w i f e
je j c e b f n e n t f t w t
ap k q o i o b f a l g a x a
b t f c s l o a o d x a g s w
u t u h a a d b t l g i a k
o r i p r j t w g v k q v v v
y n v d n f e f a n n q a l j
go i a i p i f d t i e n b q
u n e r t u j o i j e b d o q
g c d r o h c n a l c r u a b
ow g v f k e k a l i w f t y
a t k z d v g w r s f z p l o
o v o o q i c c z a f h g u g

life jacket  
boat navigation sailboat wakeboarding anchor drift boat  
fishing PWC dock capsizing water ocean  
river lake fun buoy tubing wake surfing cold water
What do you need to be a safe boater?

**Life Jackets** — life jackets help you to stay afloat in case of emergencies, and should be worn in, on, and around the water.

**Whistle or Horn** — every boat must have a whistle or horn on board.

**Float Plan** — a plan that tells someone where you are going and when you will be back and who to contact if you don’t return.

**VHF Radio** — a radio can be used to call for help, get weather conditions, know boat traffic, and other information.

**Compass** — a compass points north and helps you stay on course.

**Charts (maps)** — charts show you the area where you are boating, where you want to go, local hazards, and helps you find your way.

**Paddle** — if your motor quits, you can use a paddle to get back to shore.

**Skier Down Flag** — this flag tells other boaters that there is a person in the water during skiing or wakeboarding.

**Electric Signaling Device** — another type of device to signal for help.

**Bucket** — if your boat starts filling up with water, you can use a bucket to scoop out the water.

**Flares or Electric Flares** — in an emergency, you can use flares to signal for help.

**Anchor** — keeps the boat from drifting around while stopped.

**Fire Extinguisher** — helps put out engine fires that may occur.

**Throwable PFD** — if someone is in the water and needs help, you can throw this type of PFD to the person to help them stay afloat until help arrives.
Personal Watercrafts
Did you know? Personal Watercrafts or PWCs are considered boats.

- Some PWCs are built with room for two, three, or even four passengers.

- Everybody onboard a PWC needs to be wearing a properly-fitted life jacket and a whistle.

- PWCs need to operate carefully near shore, rocks, other boats, and aquatic life.

- Youth 12 to 15 can drive a PWC with an adult 18 or older on board as long as both have their Boater Education Card.

- If you’re a passenger, HOLD ON! PWCs can move quickly, so be sure to let your driver know if you’re not ready to go.

Connect the Dots
Connect the dots to make your PWC ready for the water!
Boat Safe
Boat Oregon

Across
1. Left side of the boat
2. Sides of the boat
3. Back of the boat
4. What you follow on the water
5. When you first fall in the water, your body feels this
6. Front of the boat
7. Floating logs, rocks, etc. in the water that you should avoid
8. Something you fill out that tells when you are leaving, where you are going, and when you’ll return
9. Something that can be used as transportation on the water
10. Body of the boat
11. Right side of the boat
12. The term for when someone falls out of a boat
13. Something you should wear at all times in, on, and around the water
14. Something you should do at all times on the water
15. The term for when your boat flips over
16. Someone who operates the boat

Down
1. 2
2. 3
4. 5
7. 8
9. 10
12. 13
14. 15

Crossword
Buoys & Markers

Aids to Navigation (ATON) are like road signs and act as Rules of the Road on the water.

RED NUN BUOY
“Red Right Returning”
keep this buoy to the right of the boat when you are traveling upstream from the ocean.

INFORMATION
tells you information about where you can find things like food, fuel, and marinas.

GREEN CAN BUOY
keep this buoy on the left side of the boat when you are traveling upstream from the ocean.

KEEP OUT
this buoy prohibits (not allowed) boats to go in such places as swimming areas, dams and spillways, etc.

OBSTRUCTION BUOY
this buoy marks hazards between this buoy and the shoreline. DON’T go between because you might hit something.

HAZARD
warns of hazards such as rocks, shoal (very shallow water), or other submerged objects.

MOORING BUOY
this buoy is used to tie your boat to if you plan to stay in an area for a while.

CONTROL
tells you at what speed your boat should be operated in certain areas.
AIS Facts

Did you know that Aquatic Invasive Species can harm native fish populations, water quality, and water recreation?

What is an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) anyway?

AIS are plants, animals, and fish that are not native and invade native plants, animals, and fish populations. AIS can be spread by many things like boats, ships, barges, aquatic recreation (fishing, hunting, boating, diving, etc.), connected waterways and many other pathways.

In Oregon, we have:
- New Zealand Mud Snails
- Water Primrose
- Parrot Feather
- Eurasian Watermilfoil

How can you help stop the spread of these destructive species?

**CLEAN  DRAIN  DRY**

- Clean the boat after every trip
- Drain any water
- Dry the boat

Circle the Differences

Between A and B

Which scenario would you rather boat in? _________________
Kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddleboards (SUP), and rafts are considered non-motorized boats. Here’s some quick facts!

**Cold water shock** can happen when you fall into the water and involuntarily gasp due to suddenly being in cold water.

You should always try to dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. The water is much colder than the air outside.

You need a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable **life jacket** and a whistle. If you’re 12 or younger, you must wear a life jacket while underway.

If you stand up in these types of boats, you could easily **capsize** (flip your boat over) or **fall overboard**, so be careful!

You should always wear a **helmet** while paddling on fast moving water so if you capsize, your head is protected from rocks.

You should always wear your **leash** and life jacket on your SUP. Always wear the right leash for the type of water you are on.

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You should always try to dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. The water is much colder than the air outside.

**and remember**

to scout the river before you go!
Let’s Go Boating
Learn how to be a safe boater and have fun on the water

The Marine Board is dedicated to making the state’s waterways safe and enjoyable for a wide range of recreationists and it’s our mission to serve Oregon’s recreational boating public through education, enforcement, access, and environmental stewardship for a safe and enjoyable experience.