STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
Where common sense meets safety

- Infants, children and all non-swimmers should wear life jackets while on docks or near open water.
- When boating in cold water, life jackets should be worn at all times (legs and arms can become numb, making it difficult to swim or even stay afloat).

CHECK FOR PROPER FIT

Adults - "The Touchdown Test"

- With the jacket on, raise your arms as though signaling a touchdown.
- Look to the left and then to the right, making sure the jacket doesn't hit the chin.

Children - The 3 Inch Rule

- With the child standing normally, arms at sides, grab the shoulders of the life jacket and lift up.
- If you can move the life jacket more than three inches up (or above the ears), it doesn't fit properly. How high the jacket rides is how it will fit them in the water.
- Straps should be snug.

Remember, wear and fit are key.

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LIFE JACKETS & WATER:
A Mix for Life

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Fast Fact
In Oregon, 85 percent of the people who drown in boating accidents would have survived had they worn properly fitting life jackets.

What's the Law?
All children 12 and under must wear a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) while on a boat that is underway.

How Many Do We Need on Board?
It depends on the length and type of the vessel.

- ***Boats less than 16 ft. long and all canoes/kayaks*** must carry one Type I, II or III (readily accessible and properly fitted) for each person on board, including water skiers.
- ***Boats 16 ft. or longer*** must carry one Type I, II or III *and* one Type IV throwable.
- ***A Type V PFD*** may be substituted for any Type I, II or III, only if it is approved for that activity.
- ***Anyone operating OR riding a personal watercraft*** must wear a Type I, II or III life jacket (not Type V).
- ***Water skiers*** must have one PFD on board per skier.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIFE JACKETS?

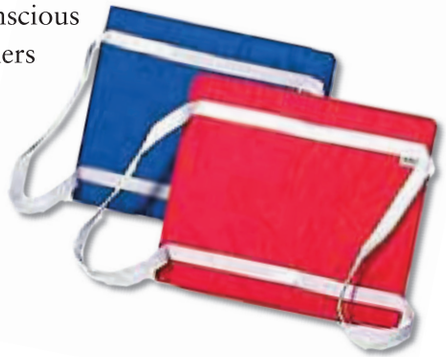
There are Seven

Type I - Life Preserver
- Most buoyant; turns the unconscious wearer face-up
- Intended for offshore or open waters where quick rescues may be unlikely

Type II - Buoyant Vest
- Less buoyant than Type I
- Intended for calm, inland water where there is a good chance of quick rescue

Type III - Marine
- Same buoyancy as Type II
- Intended for calm, inland water where there is a good chance of rescue; more wearable for activities

Type IV - Throwable Device
- Least buoyant
- Designed to be thrown to someone overboard
- Of little use to unconscious or exhausted swimmers
- Not recommended for children or non-swimmers



Infant/Child Life Jackets
- A crotch strap prevents the life jacket from slipping off.
- An oversized float collar keeps the head above water.
- A grab loop makes it easy to remove an infant/child from the water.

Inflatables (CO2)
- Very comfortable to wear *but* require careful attention to the condition of the device and CO2 cartridge.
- Not allowed for use by children under the age of 16
- Read CG label carefully for intended use of cartriage requirements.

Hybrid (Foam and Inflation)
- Contains built-in flotation and an inflatable chamber.
- When inflated, it has equal buoyancy to Type I, II, III.

COAST GUARD APPROVAL
- Life jackets must be Coast Guard approved and the right size for the intended wearer.
- Approval is shown by a stencil marking or tag on the PFD. It shows the amount of flotation, the type and approved activities.