

WHY WEAR A LIFEJACKET?

Personal flotation devices (PFDs) - commonly known as lifejackets and buoyancy vests - come in a variety of designs and sizes. It's important to wear the right one in the right situation, as it could save your life!

PFDs provide more than flotation. They allow a person in the water to keep still and conserve energy, which helps delay the onset of hypothermia. PFDs also provide protection from injury in boating collisions or if your boat runs aground.

CHOOSING A PFD

There are many different types of lifejackets and PFDs on the market. Make sure you choose one that is appropriate for the situation and your water activity. A lifejacket retailer can help you choose the jacket type most suited to your needs. Inside this pamphlet we have provided a guide to help you choose the correct one for your water activities.

Lifejackets and vests must meet New Zealand Standard 5823: 2005.

Children's lifejackets rated for a body weight of 12kg to 25kg must have a crotch strap.

Crotch straps on adult lifejackets give additional fit and safety (preventing the life jacket from riding up in rough water).

STORAGE OF PFDs:

To reduce deterioration and maintain the effectiveness of your lifejackets and PFDs:

- Store them away from sunlight
- Keep them dry and clean
- Store them away from chemicals
- Before each use, check they are in good condition and still fit correctly (especially children's lifejackets)

New Navigation Safety Bylaws are now effective.

Get a copy of the Bylaws from:

www.ecan.govt.nz or phone 0800 324 636










Be a lifesaver, wear a lifejacket



Everything is connected

UNDER NEW BOATING RULES FOR CANTERBURY:

- Lifejackets must be worn **AT ALL TIMES** on craft under 6m except when the craft is tied up or at anchor.
- **ALL CRAFT** must carry lifejackets of an appropriate size for every person on board.

TYPE OF PERSONAL Flotation DEVICE		BUOYANCY RATING*	DESCRIPTION**
Type 401 - Open waters Inflatable lifejacket		150 Newtons	Designed for extended survival in rough, open water Highly visible when inflated Designed to keep an unconscious person face up Can be fitted with a safety harness
Type 401 - Open waters Semi-rigid foam lifejacket		Minimum of 100 newtons	Same safety standards as Type 401 inflatable lifejacket Designed to keep an unconscious person face up More bulky than Type 401 inflatable lifejackets
Type 402 - Inshore waters PFD		Minimum of 71 newtons	The most commonly used jacket for recreational water activities Collar provides neck support Designed for calm waters, not rough seas or waves Not designed to keep an unconscious person's head above water
Type 403 - Bouyancy Vest		Minimum of 53 newtons	Less flotation than a lifejacket Not designed to turn an unconscious person face up Suitable for activities such as dingy sailing, kayaking, or fishing from rocks
Type 405 – Buoyancy Garment		Minimum of 53 newtons	Standards as for Type 403 buoyancy vest but not required to have reflective tape or be brightly coloured
Type 406 - Specialist		vary	Specialist designs available for pursuits such as rafting, jet-boating, kayaking
Lifejackets with a crotch strap			Compulsory for all children's lifejackets rated for a body weight of 12kg to 25kg Recommended for adult lifejackets if boating in rough conditions
Pet PFDs		Pet PFDs	A range of sizes are available for cats and dogs

*A Newton is the unit of force used to measure buoyancy.

**Please check with the retailer that PFDs fit correctly and are suitable for purpose.