

HAVE THE RIGHT LIFE JACKET?

No matter what the activity or style chosen, the most important thing is this: Remember to be responsible and always wear your life jacket while boating.

Looking for a life jacket? Today's life jackets come in a variety of shapes, sizes, colors and materials. No matter which life jacket you choose, be sure it's right for you, your planned activities and the water conditions you expect to encounter.

Download Have the Right Life Jacket infographic at safeboatingcampaign.com.

Try It On

- Check the manufacturer's ratings for your size and weight.
- Make sure the life jacket is properly zipped and/or buckled.
- Check for fit by raising your arms above your head while wearing the life jacket and ask a friend to grasp the tops of the arm openings and gently pull up.
- Ensure your life jacket fits properly with no excess room above the openings and the life jacket does not ride up over your chin or face. A snug fit in these areas shows the life jacket fits properly.

Fit Facts

- It is extremely important that you choose a life jacket that fits properly.
- Life jackets that are too big will cause the flotation device to push up around your face, which could be dangerous.
- Life jackets that are too small may not be able to keep your body afloat.



Important Reminders

- Make sure your life jacket is U.S. Coast Guard approved.
- Double check that your life jacket is appropriate for your favorite water activities. Read the label!
- Take the time to ensure a proper fit. A life jacket that is too large or too small can cause different situational problems.
- Check your life jacket is in good serviceable condition, with no tears or holes. Test to make sure it works properly.
- Life jackets meant for adult-sized people do not work for children. If you are boating with children, make sure they are wearing properly fitted, child-sized life jackets based on their weight. Do not buy a life jacket for your child to "grow into."

Some state laws vary, but it is always safe to assume, and a smart move, no matter what the age to always wear your life jacket. On recreational boats underway, children under 13 years old must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket unless they are below decks or in an enclosed cabin. For more information, please check with local Marine Law Enforcement Authorities.

