



Personal flotation devices (PFDs) and lifejackets—care and maintenance

What must you do to maintain your flotation device?

- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for specific care and maintenance requirements.
- Inspect your PFD or lifejacket before you wear it to ensure it is in good condition. Check for:
 - Metal or plastic hardware that is broken, deformed, or weakened by corrosion
 - Webbing or straps that are ripped, torn, or that have become separated from an attachment point
 - Any rotted or deteriorated material that fails when tugged
 - Rips, tears, or open seams in fabric or coatings that are large enough to allow the loss of buoyant material
 - Buoyant material that has become hardened, non-resilient, permanently compressed, waterlogged, oil-soaked, or that shows evidence of fungus or mildew; or loss of buoyant material or buoyant material that is not securely held in position
- Report damaged PFDs or lifejackets to your supervisor or vessel master. Damaged PFDs and lifejackets must not be worn.
- Properly clean, maintain, and store your PFD or lifejacket:
 - Use only a mild soapy solution when cleaning your PFD or lifejacket.
 - Never use dry-cleaning, strong detergents, gasoline, or solvents to remove a stain from your PFD or lifejacket.
 - Never store your PFD or lifejacket when it is wet; first dry it in the open air, away from sunlight or a direct heat source.
 - When your PFD or lifejacket is not in use, store it in a dry, well-ventilated, easily accessible place on board the vessel.
- Record all inspections and maintenance if your PFD or lifejacket is automatically inflatable.



*Look after your flotation device
so it will keep you afloat
when it is needed.*

For more information go to WorkSafeBC.com, OHS Regulation Parts 8 and 24.