

# Personal Flotation Devices Infographic

**BOATER SAFETY TIP - PFDs AND YOUR SAFETY**  
 Personal Flotation Devices, also known as PFDs or Lifejackets, have the potential to save lives... that is, if you wear one.

**PFDs ARE REQUIRED ONBOARD ALL VESSELS.**

An off shore life jacket is suited to all waters – especially open, rough waters, where a rescue can easily be delayed.

**Type II**

The **near shore life jacket** is best suited to calm, inland waters where there is a good chance of an easy rescue

**Type III**

**Flotation Aids** come in a wide variety of styles – but basically possess the same buoyancy as a Type II.

**Type IV**

A **throwable device** is only intended to be used in calm, inland waters with high traffic, where help is available.

**Type V**

Some **Deck Suits** provide hypothermic protection – while others are only approved when worn. Check the Label!

**Your PFD must fit properly to work properly...**

- To ensure the proper fit – have the wearer put on the PFD and adjust straps as necessary to ensure a snug fit.
- A properly fitted PFD will not ride higher than the ears or mouth of the wearer.
- Test PFDs in the water to ensure they can hold your weight. You should get used to swimming with a PFD.
- **A PFD IS ONLY EFFECTIVE IF YOU ARE WEARING ONE!**

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**Self-inflating PFDs** are effective and comfortable. Pulling the “rip cord” activates a CO2 cartridge, which rapidly inflates the vest. Always replace your cartridges once they have been fired.

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