

# 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 I**

**Type II**

**Type III**

**Type IV**

**Type V**

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

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

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

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.

For all your boater education needs visit [BOATERexam.com](http://BOATERexam.com)

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