

# Choose the Right Life Jacket



## REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket on board for every person
- It is recommended all boaters and passengers wear a life jacket at all times when boating

## READ THE LABEL

- All life jackets that are USCG approved have an approval number. Look for this to make sure your life jacket meets the law requirements and is safe.
- You may see an icon with a performance label on new life jackets. These are approved for use in the U.S. and Canada.
- Life jackets you already own may have the old "type" label (Type I-Type V).
- The new label does not make jackets with the old label obsolete. ( you can continue to use your life jacket as long as it is in good condition and appropriate for the activity).

## RIGHT LIFE JACKET

- WEAR IT- The best life jacket is one you will wear.
- ACTIVITY- It should be appropriate for the recreational water activity.
- FIT- A snug fit is a proper fit. All straps, buckles and zippers should be secure.
- CONDITION- Life jackets with a tear, broken pieces or buoyancy loss should be disposed of.

LEARN CPR



# NEW LIFE JACKET LABEL



USCG  
Approved

Performance Level

Turnability

Warnings



- Lower level numbers offer more mobility and comfort with good flotation. Intended for near shore, calm water activities.
- Higher level numbers offer greater flotation, turning and stability in the water for offshore activities.
- When boating rescue may be farther away and a higher level is needed.
- Be honest about your swimming ability. Poor swimmers may need a higher level to stay upright and tread water.



## WARNINGS

some life jackets are not approved for



Personal watercraft or wakeboarding



Water skiing



Tubing



White water paddling

## TURNABILITY



Life jacket will turn an unconscious wearer face up - test before use



Life jacket will NOT turn an unconscious wearer face up