

Lifejackets

Lifejackets are the most important safety equipment on any recreational vessel.

Modern lifejacket styles are designed to help you get the most out of your day on the water. They are easy to wear and don't get in the way of your favourite boating activities. So be safe and wear yours, because a lifejacket could save your life.

For more information about lifejackets visit rms.nsw.gov.au/lifejackets.

Types of lifejackets

There are three main types of lifejackets, built to different standards of buoyancy and designed for different kinds of marine activities. All lifejackets used in NSW must comply with accepted Australian or equivalent International Standard(s).

The three types are:

- **Level 100 or greater** (similar to former Type 1 category)
- **Level 50** (similar to former Type 2 category)
- **Level 50S** (similar to former Type 3 category).

What lifejackets must I carry on my boat?

A lifejacket must be carried for each person on board most vessels (see safety equipment checklist over the page). They must be a suitable size for the intended wearer and in good condition. They must be stored or placed to allow quick and easy access.

Lifejackets must be either visible to passengers or their location clearly marked by an unobstructed and clearly visible sign saying LIFEJACKETS. This sign is to be either red lettering on a white background or white lettering on a red background.

Important note

Inflatable lifejackets must be serviced at least every 12 months or at longer intervals in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**WEAR A LIFEJACKET
DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE**

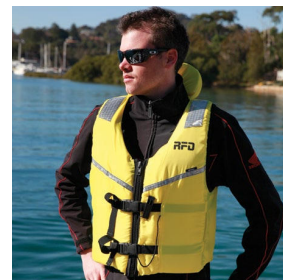
WHAT LIFEJACKET AM I REQUIRED TO WEAR ON MY RECREATIONAL VESSEL?

Boating activity/ Vessel type	Enclosed waters Lifejacket requirements	Open waters Lifejacket requirements
Children under 12 years of age	Level 50S or greater: • At all times on a vessel less than 4.8m • When in an open area of a vessel less than 8m that is underway.	Level 100 or greater: • At all times on a vessel less than 4.8m • When in an open area of a vessel less than 8m that is underway.
On all boats less than 4.8m (unless specified)	Level 50S or greater at all times when: • Boating between sunset and sunrise • Boating on alpine waters • Boating alone (without another person 12 years of age or more on the same vessel).	Level 100 or greater at all times.
Personal watercraft (PWC) including tow-in surfer	Level 50S or greater at all times.	Level 50S or greater at all times.
Crossing coastal bars	N/A	At all times as per open waters requirement for boating activity/vessel type.
Anyone being towed, eg water-skiing, wakeboarding (whether or not the person is using a rope)	Level 50S or greater at all times.	Level 50S or greater at all times.
Canoes and kayaks	Level 50S or greater at all times when: • Boating between sunset and sunrise • Boating on alpine waters • Boating alone (without another person 12 years of age or more on the same vessel).	Level 50S or greater at all times.
Sailboarding and kiteboarding (when more than 400m from shore)		
Off the beach sailing vessel		
When directed by the master of the vessel	As per enclosed waters requirement for boating activity/vessel type.	As per open water requirements for boating activity/vessel type.

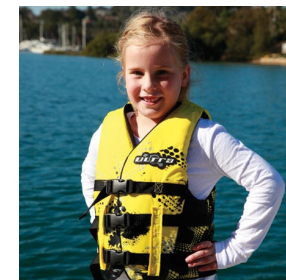
What type of lifejacket can be worn?



Level 100 or greater inflatable



Level 100 or greater



Level 50



Level 50S