



WHEN BUYING

Take advice and remember, it is recommended that all Personal Flotation Devices whether lifejackets or buoyancy aids should have a whistle, a light and retro-reflective strips fitted.

**“Be reflective at night,
be seen in the light”.**

**Always take heed
of good advice!**

**“ Wear Your
Lifejacket”**

**This leaflet issued free
in the interest of
public safety by**

**The Marine Safety
Working Group**

THE GOLDEN RULES

Keep safety equipment close at hand on deck in bad weather. When sailing wear a safety harness in addition to the lifejacket. There should be a lifejacket for each person on board the craft.

KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT

Owning a lifejacket or buoyancy aid is no guarantee of safety unless you learn how to use it. You should practice putting it on. This is particularly important with children as it gives them confidence and familiarises them with personal flotation devices. Lifejackets and buoyancy aids should be tried out in the water to test their functions and your own ability to use them in an emergency. All equipment should be checked regularly in accordance with the manufacturers and servicing instruction for signs of wear and tear. If in doubt about its serviceability, it should be replaced or returned to the manufacturer for overhaul and serviced as required.

EMERGENCIES

For all marine emergencies, call **999** or **112** and ask for **Marine Rescue**.

LIFEJACKETS & BUOYANCY AIDS (Personal Flotation Devices)



**SAFETY
ON THE
WATER**

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WHEN ON OR NEAR THE WATER ALWAYS WEAR A LIFEJACKET

Drownings could be prevented if those who go on the water, either to earn a living or for sporting purposes would wear a lifejacket or a buoyancy aid suitable to their activity. Lifejackets are not expensive to buy, remember your life could depend on it, therefore take care when buying and choose well.

It is always essential to wear a lifejacket when on or near the water.



LIFEJACKETS

Lifejacket buoyancy is measured in newtons. 10 newtons is equivalent to 1kg of floatation support. The higher the newtons, the greater the buoyancy. There are 3 European standards of lifejacket - 100 newton, 150 newton and a 275 newton.

The 100 newton lifejacket is intended for those who may still have to wait for rescue but are likely to do so in sheltered and calm water. Whilst these lifejackets are less bulky, they are only intended for use in relatively sheltered waters.

The 150 newton lifejacket is intended for general offshore and rough weather use where a high standard of performance is required. It will turn an unconscious person into a safe position and requires no subsequent action by the wearer to maintain his posture.



The 275 newton lifejacket is intended primarily for offshore and extreme conditions and those who are wearing heavy protective clothing and which may adversely affect the self-righting capacity of a lifejacket. This lifejacket is designed to ensure that the wearer is floating in the correct position with their mouth and nose clear of the surface of the water.

LIFEJACKET TYPES

The main types of lifejackets are:

- Lifejackets with inherent buoyancy.
- Lifejackets which can be inflated manually or be automatically activated on entering the water.
- Lifejackets are available in sizes suitable for adults and children.



REMEMBER

Purchase a lifejacket and buoyancy aid (PFD) that is suitable for your activity. The cost is nothing compared to your life.

BUOYANCY AIDS

A buoyancy aid will simply assist a conscious person to keep afloat. It is not guaranteed to turn a person from a face-down position in the water to a face-upward position. It must always be remembered that a buoyancy aid has not got the same capacities as that of a lifejacket. Buoyancy aids have no less than 50 newtons and are intended only for swimmers only in sheltered waters where help is close at hand.

REMEMBER

Always wear your lifejacket on or near the water.

All lifejackets and buoyancy aids must carry the CE mark.

