

Wear it. Check it. Service it.

An inflatable lifejacket can only keep you afloat if it's in good working order. It's important to always check the condition of your lifejacket before you wear it, and to service it regularly.

If you're a skipper it's up to you to make your passengers aware of what a lifejacket can and can't do, and how to use one. A skipper is also responsible for ensuring lifejackets are serviced annually or in line with the manufacturer's instructions, and for checking their condition between servicing intervals.

Check inflatable lifejackets before every wear.

Always complete a pre-wear check before you head out on the water.



Check for wear and tear.



Check the cylinder is full, the auto cartridge is armed, and both are screwed in, hand tight.



Check the pull cord is clear.





Learn how at lifejacketwearit.com.au

Know how to check and service your inflatable lifejacket. It could save your life.



Servicing inflatable lifejackets

Inflatable lifejackets should be serviced annually or in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Servicing will ensure all parts of the lifejacket, including the bladder, inflation mechanism and CO² cylinder, are fit for use.



Check the inflation system

- ☑ Following the manufacturer's instructions, reveal the inflation system and use the oral inflation tube to inflate the bladder.
- Leave overnight.
- ☑ If the bladder loses pressure, take the lifejacket to an accredited service agent for further tests, or replace the lifejacket.
- Do not attempt to repair your lifejacket by yourself.



Deflate correctly

- Invert the cap on the oral inflation tube then press down on the valve inside the tube.
- Do not insert other objects into the top of the tube as they may damage the valve.
- Roll or press down to fully deflate the lifejacket.



Check any cylinder/cartridge is full, armed and secured

- ☑ Remove and inspect the CO² cylinder it should be intact with no rust or corrosion.
- Weigh the cylinder on scales it should match the minimum gross weight engraved on the cylinder, or within 2 grams.
- ☑ If the cylinder is rusted, corroded, pierced or is not the correct weight, it should be replaced.
- On auto-inflating lifejackets, ensure all auto cartridge components are armed and in-date.
- Re-fit the cylinder to the inflation system and tighten by hand until just firm.
- Do not over tighten.



Check the pull cord

- ☑ Re-pack the lifejacket as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure the pull cord is free from obstruction, accessible and unlikely to catch on anything when worn.

Helpful information

Auto-inflating lifejackets vs manual inflating lifejackets

Auto-inflating lifejackets will automatically inflate shortly after they come into contact with the water. Be aware that a large amount of spray can activate this type of lifejacket while on deck.

Manual inflating lifejackets must be activated by hand. For this reason it is recommended that children under 12 years do not wear them.

What to do if an inflatable lifejacket has been activated

Once activated, the CO² cylinder is pierced and cannot be used again. If you're using an auto-inflating lifejacket, the auto-inflating components may also need to be replaced. It's a good idea to always have spare components on your vessel.

How to care for your lifejacket

Store lifejackets in a dry, well-ventilated place. After each use, remove the autoinflation cartridge (if the lifejacket has one) and rinse the jacket with fresh water.

Dry the jacket thoroughly and reconnect the auto-inflation cartridge before storing. The lifejacket manufacturer may have other requirements so read the instructions on the lifejacket.