

Out on the cricket pitch, good skippers lead by example. I should know, I've played with some of the best. But out on my boat, I'm the skipper and it's my responsibility to make sure everyone stays safe. That's why I always wear my lifejacket and make sure everyone else onboard does the same.

Next time you're on your boat, take the lead with lifejackets.

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Australian Opening Test Batsman



Australia New Zealand
Safe Boating Education Group

**National Marine
Safety Committee**



*This is a national safe boating initiative
supported by marine safety agencies around Australia.
For more, visit www.safeboating.org.au or www.nmsc.gov.au*

Lifejackets

Skippers take the lead



National Marine Safety Committee

www.nmsc.gov.au





Types of Lifejackets

When we talk about lifejackets, we are actually referring to personal flotation devices (PFDs). As a skipper, it's your job to make sure that there's a PFD for everyone on-board. An adult PFD is generally not suitable for use by a child, so you will need to have the correct size PFD for any children on-board. Check that the PFDs fit well by asking your passengers to try on their allocated PFD before you set out.

There are different types of PFDs designed for different purposes; and your passengers will be relying on you, as skipper, to know which type to use. Make sure that the PFDs you use have been certified as complying with the correct Australian Standard (see below).

Make Sure You're Wearing One

Boating mishaps tend to happen without warning and if you're in a small boat, it's a matter of seconds before you find yourself in the water.

How quickly could you, as the skipper, organise everybody on board to find a lifejacket and put it on in an emergency? It's much better to be prepared before the event, especially when:

- Crossing an ocean bar or a designated hazardous area
- Boating alone
- Traveling at night or in periods of restricted visibility
- A squall or storm approaches or when a severe weather warning has been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology
- In a yacht where there are no safety barriers, lifelines, rails, safety harnesses or jacklines in use

If you have children on-board or poor swimmers, ensure they wear a lifejacket at all times.

Remember, a lifejacket is not a lifesaver unless you're wearing it.

PFD Type 1 (Australian Standard 1512)



Jacket Style
PFD Type 1

The most common, general purpose PFD for use on power boats is a PFD Type 1. This type of PFD is suitable for use in both sheltered and open waters and they come with either foam buoyancy or inflatable chambers. Jacket style PFD Type 1s are a comfortable option. Cheaper block type PFDs will work in an emergency, but are uncomfortable to wear for any length of time.



Inflatable
PFD Type 1

Inflatable PFDs are the least bulky option. Remember, in addition to the normal maintenance, inflatable PFDs require periodic servicing of the cylinder and actuator mechanism to ensure they will inflate when needed.

PFD Type 2 (Australian Standard 1499)



A PFD Type 2 is typically used when sailing, waterskiing, kayaking, canoeing or windsurfing. These PFDs are less bulky than a PFD Type 1 and don't inhibit your ability to swim. However, they have less buoyancy to keep you afloat and are only suitable for use by competent swimmers in sheltered waters where you expect to be able to reboard the boat more or less immediately.

PFD Type 3 (Australian Standard 2260)



Mainly used in waterskiing, a PFD Type 3 has similar characteristics to a PFD Type 2 but is manufactured in a wider range of colours. It's suitable where high visibility is not required because you have at least one observer in the boat. PFD Type 3s are also available as buoyant wet suits.