Finding the Right PFD for You: 5 Things to Consider











Belt Packs

Float Coats



T-Shirts







Inherent/Standard

- Typically foam flotation
- · Low maintenance
- Recommended for all swimming abilities



Hybrid

- Dual flotation, typically foam & CO₂
- · Security of foam with less bulk
- Not recommended for nonswimmers

Manual Inflatable

- CO₂ flotation
- · Manual pull to inflate
- Oral backup inflation
- Ages 16+
- Not recommended for nonswimmers





Automatic Inflatable

- CO₂ flotation
- Automatically inflates in water
- Manual and oral backup inflation
- Some models can be set to auto or manual*
- Ages 16+
- Not recommended for nonswimmers





FLOTATION



- Most adults need 7-12 lbs. to keep their head above water.
- The higher the buoyancy, the higher you will float.

4 CERTIFICATION

What you choose to wear may not replace USCG approved flotation devices required to be on your boat; check your state and federal requirements.

Read the label; understand what you're choosing for its function; and determine the best match for you.

USCG Type I

Best for open, rough and remote water. It will turn most unconscious wearers face-up. Type I is the best option for retaining body heat.

USCG Type II

Best for protected, inland water near shore. It is not suited for extended survival in rough water. Turns some unconsious face-up. The user should be able to tread water.

USCG Type III & Level 70

Best for protected, inland water near shore. It is not suited for extended survival in rough water. This type is not designed to turn unconcious wearers face-up.

USCG Type IV

Square, ring or horseshoe buoy mounted on deck. Type IV is not for unconscious wearers, nonswimmers or children. It must be immediately available for use and at arms length.

USCG Type V

Type V must be worn underway to meet USCG requirements. Automatic inflation is not guarenteed to turn unconcious wearers face-up. Hybrids are not for unconcious wearers.

USCG Types are transitioning to Performance Levels

USCG Legacy Label > NEW USCG & Transport Canada Label



• PFDs can also come with a certification that meets international standards (ISO), European standards (CE), Commercial standards (SOLAS), or have no certifications

