

# Looking after your Inflatable Lifejacket

## Take Care of your lifejacket (Personal Flotation Device or PFD)

One day you might need it to look after you.

It is your responsibility so follow these steps to make sure it is in good working order.

### Read the instructions

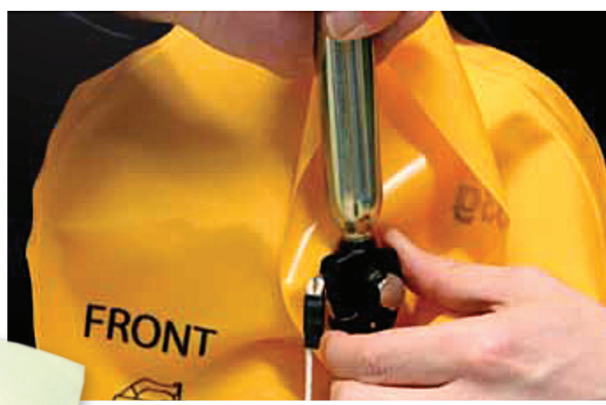
Your inflatable lifejacket should contain information on how to wear, operate and look after your device. It is important that you familiarise yourself with these instructions.

### Check your lifejacket

Check the following for excessive wear, cracking, fraying corrosion or anything to indicate possible loss of strength:

- Zips
- Buckles
- Waist belts
- All fastening mechanisms and devices.

Most importantly, do not try to repair your life jacket or any personal flotation device.



### Check that:

- The lifejacket has not been previously activated.
- The cylinder can only be used once so check that the green or red clip is in place and that the cylinder does not have a hole pierced in the top.

### IF IT DOES, REPLACE THE CYLINDER

- Replace the cylinder and check that it is tightened firmly.
- Open up the lifejacket and fully inflate using the oral inflation tube.
- Leave the jacket overnight and check that there is no loss of pressure.
- Deflate the jacket by turning the inflation tube cap upside down and pressing the one way valve to release all of the air.
- Once all the air is expelled, re-fold the jacket along the printed lines starting at the side furthest from the oral inflation tube.

We strongly recommend that **SELF SERVICING** of your inflatable Lifejackets (by recreational users) is carried out at least annually. Hey, A good time to do this is on your Birthday...

You can check out the video at:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=z\\_cE\\_KM8SpU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_cE_KM8SpU)

**Hutchwilco**  
Quality Lifejackets

**COASTGUARD**

## What should I do with my inflatable lifejacket at the end of a day out?

- If your inflatable lifejacket is equipped with automatic inflation, remove the bobbin or cartridge before washing to avoid accidental inflation.
- **Rinse:** If it has been exposed to salt water, rinse thoroughly in fresh cold water.
- **Wash:** To clean the outer shell of it, hand wash with warm soapy water. A clothing cleaning agent can be used for removing grease and stubborn stains.
- **Dry:** Hang it up to dry thoroughly before storing.

## Important - If your inflatable lifejacket is equipped with automatic inflation

Remember to replace the bobbin or cartridge once the inflatable lifejacket is thoroughly dry. The bobbin can only be inserted one way and the cartridge simply screws in.

## Bobbins and cartridges

Some automatic inflatable lifejackets are equipped with sacrificial water-soluble bobbins and others with sacrificial paper element cartridges. They are prone to accidental inflation if exposed to humid conditions for any length of time. If you have any difficulty, contact the manufacturer or place of purchase.

## What if I have deployed my inflatable lifejacket?

If you use your inflatable lifejacket, you will need to replace the CO2 gas cylinder once it has been used.

It is recommended that you have your inflatable lifejacket serviced each time it is deployed. The inflatable lifejacket can then be checked for any damage which may have occurred during the incident. For automatic inflatable lifejackets, it is recommended that the bobbins or cartridges be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

## Does my inflatable lifejacket need to be serviced?

Your inflatable lifejacket should be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations for full servicing details relevant to your inflatable lifejacket.



*Your inflatable lifejacket  
is a life saving device.*

*Care for it as though your  
life depended on it.*

***One day, it just might.***



### Coastguard Northern Region

POSTAL ADDRESS / PO Box 2195, Shortland St, Auckland 1140

STREET ADDRESS / Level 1, Auckland Marine Rescue Centre, 3 Solent St Mechanics Bay

PHONE / 09 303 4303

FREE CALL FROM OUTSIDE AUCKLAND AREA / 0508 Rescue (737 283)

EMAIL / [membership@coastguard.org.nz](mailto:membership@coastguard.org.nz)

WEB / [www.coastguard.org.nz](http://www.coastguard.org.nz)

**Hutchwilco**  
*Quality Lifejackets*

THE CHARITY SAVING LIVES AT SEA

**COASTGUARD**