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Inspecting your PFD for functionality and possible replacement.

Check often your personal flotation device (PFD) for rips, tears and holes.

If your PFD is vinyl coated, check it for areas where the vinyl has worn away.

Check the webbing and straps of your PFD for wear and fraying.

Check the stitching on all areas of your PFD to ensure that they are still tight. This includes the seams, webbing, buckles etc.

If your PFD has reflective tape, check to ensure that the reflective tape is still in place.

Check the hardware on your PFD to make sure it still functions properly and does not become unhooked easily.

Caring for your PFD

Do not alter your PFD. If you do, it may not stay on you in the water.

Do not leave heavy objects on your PFD; squash it in storage; or use it for a kneeling pad. The compression can cause it to lose buoyancy.

Let your PFD drip-dry thoroughly before putting it away.

Always store it in a ventilated place.

Never dry your PFD on a radiator heater, or any other direct heat source.

Do not store your PFD in direct sunlight for extended periods of time.