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Please read below the formula for determining pounds of buoyancy:

By Archimede's Principle, and general knowledge of human weight composition, we know that if a man weighs 200 pounds on land, he only weighs 10 pounds in the water.

Here is the breakdown for how that weight is determined:

80% of the human body is water. Water in the body has no weight in the water.

$200 \text{ pounds} \times 80\% = 160 \text{ pounds of water weight.}$

$200 \text{ pounds} - 160 \text{ pounds} = 40 \text{ pounds of actual body weight.}$

However, the average human body is about 15% fat, and fat is less dense than water so it floats.

$200 \text{ pounds} \times 15\% = 30 \text{ pounds of fat.}$

$40 \text{ pounds} - 30 \text{ pounds} = 10 \text{ pounds of actual weight that needs to float.}$

Thus, a 200-pound person only weighs 10 pounds in the water.

Now, a U.S.C.G. approved Type V work vests is mandated to have 17.5 pounds of buoyancy.

So, at this requirement, Type V Work Vests will support a man that weighs 350 pounds on land, as he will only weigh 17.5 pounds in the water.

Our Taylortec, Inc. Type V's are inherently buoyant and regularly test at 18.75 - 20 pounds of buoyancy, exceeding the minimum requirement. In fact, all of our Taylortec-made life jackets exceed buoyancy!

Now that you know how buoyancy is determined, remember to purchase the appropriate PFD and stay safe out there!

Kind regards,

The Taylortec Team