
Chapter 7

Dressing in to Your Dry Suit

Think back to the first time you dressed into a full 1/4-inch (7mm) wetsuit. If you have been diving for a long time you probably don't remember how difficult it was to perform that simple task. However, once you learned some of the tricks involved in effectively dressing into your wetsuit it became much easier.

Learning to dress into a dry suit is not difficult, but there are definitely some techniques that will make doing so much simpler. With very little experience, you will probably find that dressing into a dry suit is much easier than dressing into a full 1/4-inch wetsuit!

Many dry suit dives have been ruined before they even began due to improper dress-in techniques. Take the time to don your dry suit properly and your likelihood of having a good dive is almost a certainty.

Setting Up Your Dry Suit System the First Time

Once you have obtained all of the components of your dry suit system, it is still necessary to set them up correctly. You can have the best dry suit system available, but without proper harmony between all the pieces it will not function well.

Adjusting Dry Suit Seals

One of the most basic tasks in setting up your dry suit system is to make sure the seals on your suit are adjusted properly for you. If you don't take the time to do this, the seals on your suit will be extremely uncomfortable and possibly even dangerous. Be sure to trim the seals on your suit if they need adjustment, or have your dry suit instructor do this for you.

Regulator-Inflator Hose Geometry

Your dry suit inflator hose should only be connected to one of the low-pressure ports on your regulator's first stage. Never connect the low-pressure inflator hose to any port marked "H.P." (high-pressure). Connecting the hose to a high-pressure port could cause it to fail, injuring you and people around you. If you are unsure of



Your dry suit inflator hose must only be connected to a low-pressure port.

how to do this, see your instructor or dealer and have them assist you.

If you do connect your dry suit inflator hose yourself, use the correct size wrench on the inflator hose and the plug in your regulator. Adjustable wrenches tend to slip, and can round the corners on brass fittings. This can make it difficult to achieve the proper torque in connecting a fitting or removing it later.

When you connect your dry suit inflator hose to your first stage, take a careful look at the angle and route it must take to connect to your suit inflator valve. It is very important that you do not stress or kink the hose to make the connection. Stretching the hose, or bending it to the point where it kinks, will create problems that could lead the inflator hose to fail.

Dry suit inflator hoses should follow a gently curving path to connect to your suit inflator valve. To achieve the correct angle it may be necessary to disconnect some of your other hoses and change the ports where they have been attached. Make sure all of the low-pressure hoses are only connected to ports that are marked "L.P." (low-pressure).

Some regulators are equipped with a special large bore, low-pressure outlet for the second stage supply hose. In this situation, there may only be one low-pressure outlet available for mating to the second stage hose.

Your regulator may have a sufficient number of low-pressure ports, but with certain regulator and tank valve combinations the angles at which they join may make it difficult to properly route your low-pressure hose. If this is the case, you may need a low-pressure adaptor or swivel "T" to make acceptable connections.

Another important consideration may be the length of your low-pressure hose. Again, certain valve and regulator combinations may make a long, low-pressure inflator hose desirable. Check with your dealer regarding the availability of extra-long inflator hoses. Certain manufacturers do offer this type of optional equipment.

Finally, you should be able to rotate the low-pressure inflator valve on your suit to a more comfortable angle. Most inflator valves today are designed to swivel easily. However, before you try turning the valve, check the manual that came with your suit to be sure that the valve is designed to swivel.

Estimating Your Weight Requirements

With most combinations of dry suits and underwear you will need anywhere from 4 to 10 pounds of additional weight compared to the weight you would wear with a full 1/4-inch (7mm) wetsuit. How much weight you will need will depend upon your personal buoyancy, the type of dry suit you are using, the type of dry suit underwear you are wearing, the fit of your dry suit, the type of tank you use, and any accessory gear (such as cameras) you are carrying. Some divers are actually able to wear less weight with their dry suit system than with a 1/4-inch (7mm) thick wetsuit.

The most important point to keep in mind is that all else being equal, your weight requirements will change most dramatically when you change the amount of underwear you use with your suit. This is particularly important if you dive in a location where you use an entirely different set of underwear during different seasons.

All scuba cylinders become more buoyant as the air inside the tank is consumed. This buoyancy varies depending upon the cylinder design. Check the manufacturer's specifications for your cylinder to see how the buoyancy changes from the time the tank is full until it is empty. Take this amount of additional weight with you when you dive your dry suit for the first time.

You should initially test your dry suit buoyancy in a swimming pool or other shallow, confined body of water. Of course, if you test your buoyancy in fresh water you will need a few more pounds to dive in salt water. To adjust for the change from fresh to salt water you will probably need to add anywhere from 4-6 pounds of weight.

If you must test your buoyancy in open water, position yourself in shallow water where you can stand on your fin tips if you need to, or immediately adjacent to the anchor line so you can stop your descent by grabbing the line. Be prepared to use your buoyancy compensator to re-establish positive buoyancy if you discover that you are grossly overweighted. Since each person has their own individual buoyancy and diving system, it is impossible to predict here how much weight you will need to dive.

Most new dry suit divers have a tendency to use too much weight on their belts. This can cause serious problems in buoyancy control. A diver who uses an excess amount of weight must put a great deal of air in their suit to achieve neutral buoyancy. When this air shifts inside the suit, it can lead to buoyancy control problems for the untrained dry suit diver.

Your goal as a dry suit diver should be to dive with the minimum amount of weight possible and with the minimum volume of air inside your dry suit. You should wear only enough weight to allow you to make a 5 minute precautionary decompression stop at the end of your dive, at a depth of 10-15 feet, when you have 500 P.S.I. of air remaining in your tank.

Proper weighting is crucial for enjoyable dry suit diving.



Start Your Pre-Dive Check at Home

One of the most important tips to remember when using a dry suit is to check its condition before you leave for a dive trip. This check is especially important if you haven't used your suit recently. The pre-dive check should be performed several days before your trip to enable you to correct anything that might not be working properly. If you wait until the morning of your trip to discover that your neck seal has deteriorated, you may not have the parts or the time to properly repair it before the trip.

Start your pre-dive check with the zipper(s) on your dry suit. Open the zipper all the way. Carefully inspect all the teeth on the zipper to ensure that they are all present and that none of them are broken. Since the teeth are all symmetrically placed, any gaps in the teeth will immediately reveal that some are missing. You should not dive a suit that has a zipper with missing teeth. Missing teeth indicate a broken zipper. This condition could cause your suit to flood.

Examine the zipper further by grasping it on one side with your hands a few inches apart. Gently bend the zipper in an arc, but do not force it to bend any further than it will go naturally. If you notice any spots where the zipper bends at a right angle this indicates that the tape that forms the base of the zipper is torn. You should also look for frayed edges on the base tape of the zipper. These can be carefully singed with a match.

You should not dive a suit with a torn base tape. Damaged zippers can fail unexpectedly and cause your suit to flood. Frequent lubrication of the zipper will help prevent zipper damage.

If you think your suit may have leaks, you need to check it carefully. To leak test your suit, twist rubber bands carefully, but tightly, around the wrist and neck seals to close the seals. Next, close the zipper. If your suit has an automatic exhaust valve, screw the adjustment all the way "closed." Attach the inflator hose to your suit and inflate the suit until it is taut. Use a clean spray bottle and spray a dilute



It is extremely important to lubricate the zipper on your dry suit frequently!

solution of soapy water on any suspected leaks. Leaking air will form bubbles on the suit and allow you to detect leaks quite easily.

The seals of your dry suit must be in good condition. Check the seals of your suit for nicks or tears. Neoprene seals can be repaired with wetsuit cement. Although you can dive them shortly after repairing them, it is best to wait overnight before use. Always avoid temperatures over 100 degrees F with any new neoprene repairs. For wetsuit cement to fully cure it takes at least 10 days. Heat will cause almost any newly glued seam to open.

If your suit has latex seals, carefully examine them for signs of “checking” or cracking. Seals that are gummy or sticky are on the road to failure, too. If the seals are in poor condition they should be replaced before your dive. Latex seals that are weak may tear during normal dress-in routines.

Test the valves on your suit to ensure they are working correctly. Hook up your suit inflator and push the button several times. The button should not stick either open or closed. If you are unable to make your inflator valve work properly do not dive the suit until it is serviced or replaced. Salt crystals in the inflator mechanism are the most common cause of a stuck inflator button. To correct this, try running warm water through the valve followed by a brief squirt of silicone spray.

To test the exhaust valve you must seal your suit off with rubber bands like you would during a leak test. Inflate the suit until it is rigid and let it stand fully inflated to check for leaks from the valve. Next, operate the exhaust valve. Air should flow freely through the valve when it is activated and reseal completely when closed.

If the exhaust valve does not vent air properly, check inside the suit for lint or other debris that may be blocking the valve. If there is no obvious obstruction it may be that the membrane in the valve has dried and stuck to the valve body. Try rinsing the valve and running water through it from the inside if possible. If you are still unable to get the exhaust valve to open or close normally do not use the suit until the valve has been replaced.

The importance of checking your suit several days before the dive can't be stressed enough, particularly if your suit has not been used for a few months. This is especially true if your latex seals are old, or you live in an area where there is smog. The high ozone levels in smog will cause latex seals to deteriorate faster than usual.

The night before the dive it's a good idea to trim your fingernails if they are long. This will help prevent you from accidentally tearing a latex seal.



Leak testing a dry suit.

At the Dive Site

Topside weather at your dive site will affect your pre-dive procedures on the day of your dive. If the weather is cold or rainy, it may be more comfortable to dress into your dry suit before you set up your other equipment. If you are diving through ice, it's usually safer to wear your dry suit on the surface than cold weather clothing and a life vest.

In warm weather you should set up all your other diving equipment before you dress into your dry suit. This means that your scuba system, weights, fins, mask and snorkel, and other accessories should be ready to go on the minute your dry suit zipper is closed. Most people find it very uncomfortable to stand around in a dry suit when the air temperature is warmer than 70 degrees F.

With certain types of dry gloves the cuff rings must be inserted into the dry suit sleeves before you dress into your suit. In fact, both the inner and outer rings should be installed in the suit when you set up the rest of your gear to dive. Some dry suit divers even install their cuff rings the night before the dive.

Some divers install their cuff rings permanently, by gluing them to the suit, although this practice can make it difficult to clean silt or sand from underneath the outer ring.

You can use soapy water to assist you in donning your wrist seals if they are heavy duty seals. Soapy water can be used to help you remove your wrist seals, too. Take along a small bottle filled with soapy water (15/1 dilution) for this purpose.

Silicone spray is **not** an acceptable lubricant for your dry suit seals. Although silicone spray will make it easy to dress in, it has a very negative effect when it is time to repair your suit. While some people claim that silicone spray will lengthen the life of your seals, we have seen no evidence of this. In the long run it is much easier and wiser not to use silicone spray, or any other commercially prepared "seal saver," on your suit or seals.

In the past, people used pure talcum powder to help don their wrist seals. This practice is no longer recommended because some medical authorities believe the inhalation of talc particles may be detrimental to your health.

If you are using a polyester liner underneath your dry suit underwear you should don this layer completely before proceeding any further. Most people wear a bathing suit under their dry suit underwear, but you could wear a pair of under-shorts and a tee shirt if you prefer. Whatever you find comfortable is acceptable.



Soapy water may be used to help both don and remove your wrist seals, as shown here. You can use a dilution of fifteen parts water to one part soap.

Dressing into your dry suit underwear is much easier if you start by sitting down, especially if you are diving from a boat. Pull on the lower part of your underwear, then stand up to work your underwear over your hips.

If you are diving from a large boat, and the deck is wet, make sure your underwear boots and dry suit are close at hand. It can be uncomfortable if you must walk across a wet, cold deck in your bare feet. If your dry suit underwear is made from synthetic pile, walking on a wet deck will leave your underwear boots wet and cold for the rest of the dive day. Once you have your underwear on it is time to get into your suit.



It's very important to remember to remove all jewelry as well as your watch before dressing into your dry suit.

General Techniques for All Dry Suits

Stop! Before you do anything else make sure that you have removed your watch and any jewelry that may catch on a seal and cause it to tear. This includes earrings, necklaces, rings, and bracelets. Anything that can tear a dry suit seal must be removed before you dress. More seals have been torn by divers getting dressed than have ever been damaged underwater.

When it is time to don your suit, it will be much safer and easier if you sit down to start the dress-in process. If your suit is equipped with suspenders, make sure they are pulled out of the legs of the suit and properly aligned before you step into the suit. They should be pulled up and out to the side so they will be on the outside of your legs and body.

Pull the suit onto your lower legs and get your feet firmly into the boots before you stand up.

Pull the dry suit up to your hips and waist. Depending upon the cut of the suit, people with broad hips may have to work a bit to get the suit past their buttocks. This is one of the places where a custom dry



Sit down to don the lower part of your dry suit underwear, then stand up to zip it closed.

Dressing in to Your Dry Suit



Sit down to don the bottom of your suit.

suit really pays off.

If your suit is equipped with suspenders you should slip them over your shoulders at this time. Adjust the tension on the suspenders so they are taut but not tight. They should be supporting the lower part of your suit. The suspenders themselves should still have stretch.

If your suit is not equipped with suspenders, just before you don the rest of your equipment, pull your suit up into your crotch as far as it will go. Bring your legs together to hold the suit up and don your weight belt. This will make your suit more comfortable and it will not feel as though it is hanging down around your knees.

At this point, if your dry suit underwear is equipped with thumb tabs, slip the tabs over your thumbs. This will allow you to slide your arm down the sleeve without having your dry suit underwear bunch up at your forearm.

Some divers prefer to grab the thumb tabs between their fingers rather than slipping it over their thumbs. Whichever method you use be sure to release the thumb tabs once your hand is through the seals and tuck them back inside the suit so they don't cause your wrist seals to leak.



Slip the suspenders over your shoulders.

Insert either arm into the sleeve of your suit first. When your hand reaches the wrist seal, keep your fingers extended but squeeze them all together (including your thumb). This creates the smallest diameter for your hand to go through the wrist seal.

Grab the outside of the wrist seal with your free hand and gently pull it over the hand inside the suit. Grab the wrist seal itself; do not grab the sleeve of the suit. If you pull on the sleeve to get your hand through the seal you will place a strain on the suit where the seal mates to the suit. Take special care not to dig your fingernails into the seals. Only use your fingertips for donning all seals.

Another method that some divers use for getting their hand through the wrist seals is to slip two or three fingers of their free hand inside the opening of the wrist seal and pull

If your underwear is equipped with thumb tabs, use these to help prevent your underwear from riding up your arm when you don your dry suit. You can just hold the tabs between your thumb and forefinger and release them as soon as your fingers reach the latex inside the sleeve.



the seal over the hand inside the sleeve. This technique also works well. Again, just be sure you don't dig your fingernails into the wrist seal.

If your seals are well lubricated you can insert both of your arms in the sleeves and try to pop both arms through the seals at one time. This method works well as long as you suit has thin latex seals.

Once you have tucked the thumb tabs from your dry suit underwear back inside the suit, adjust your wrist seals. Most latex seals are designed to lie flat against your wrist. The seals should be as far up your arm as is required for them to seal effectively. There must be no underwear sticking out of the seal. Ideally there should be at least one inch of wrist seal material making direct contact with your wrists.

Neoprene wrist seals may either be cone shaped or designed to fold under. With a cone shaped seal, you need only check to make sure it is pushed far enough up your wrist to form an efficient seal.

Folding neoprene wrist seals are tucked back underneath themselves. With this type of seal there should be a minimum of two inches of material folded under the top layer of neoprene. As with other seals, there must be no underwear trapped under the seal to create a channel where water can leak in. Once your wrist seals are properly adjusted, it's time to don your neck seal.

If your suit has permanently attached gloves, you may want to don the neck seal first, provided you have the shoulder flexibility to do this. Otherwise, you will need to don the sleeves, and spread the neck seal with your gloved hands. Of course, you should have someone check your neck seal to be sure it is properly installed following this procedure and before each dive, even if you can dress into your suit by yourself.



Use care when donning your wrist seals.

Donning Latex Neck Seals

To don a latex neck seal, reach through the neck seal with both hands, keeping your thumbs on the outside of the seal and suit. Spread the neck seal by pulling against the palms of your hands. Avoid any bunching of the seal since this makes it more difficult to get it over your head. Do not dig your fingers into the latex or you may cut the seal. Pull the back of the neck seal over the back of your head then pull forward and down with your hands. Pull the neck seal gently, but firmly, over your head.

Divers with long hair may find it easier to don their neck seals if they wear an old nylon stocking over their head. Tuck your hair up into the stocking to get it out of the way. The nylon is quite slippery and helps to keep long hair from tangling in the seal. Some divers actually roll the nylon up onto their head like a cap, once they have the neck seal on. They leave the stocking in place when they dive so it is convenient to use again when they get out of the water.

Some latex neck seals are designed to be folded under on themselves, similar to the manner in which a neoprene wrist seal is adjusted. Other latex seals are intended to be worn straight up. Follow whichever method the manufacturer of your suit recommends. However, regardless of the design, all latex seals should be worn as low on your neck as possible for maximum comfort.

Like any other seal, neck seals must be free of any interference that might interrupt the seal. Dry suit underwear collars and long hair can create leaks in neck seals if they are not properly adjusted. In addition, divers with long hair on the back of their neck may experience leakage due to hair interfering with the neck seal. If this is a problem you may want to have your hairdresser shave the back of your neck.



It's very important to spread the neck seal properly.



If you have long hair, an old nylon stocking will help make it easier to don a latex neck seal. It will also make it easier to remove the seal, too.

Note how the diver's hands are not digging into the latex. The latex is spread by pulling against the palms of your hands. Try to keep your fingers flat and do not bunch up the neck seal.



The neck seal must be adjusted so it lies flat against your neck and as low on your neck as possible. There must be no hair or underwear protruding out from under the seal.

Donning Neoprene Neck Seals

Neoprene neck seals are also easy to don and adjust, although the procedure is slightly different from a latex seal. Although neoprene seals do not tear as easily as latex seals, they can be damaged and take longer to repair. It's better to don your seal properly than to miss out on diving while you make a repair.

Pull the upper end of the dry suit over your head and position your head at the opening for the neck seal inside the suit. With your hands on the outside of the neck seal, use the friction of your hands on the neoprene to slide



Donning a neoprene neck seal.

Dressing in to Your Dry Suit



the seal over your head. Push your head up through the neck seal while pulling down with your hands.

Stop when the top edge of the neck seal reaches your chin. Grab the edge of the seal and turn it down and in on itself, just as you would a reverse turtle-neck sweater, with the smooth “skin” side of the material against your neck.

Neoprene neck seals must be folded down and in, like a reverse turtleneck sweater.

General Instructions For All Waterproof Zippers

If you did not lubricate your dry suit zipper after you used your suit the last time, take the time to lubricate your zipper before you use it again. The extra minute it takes to lube the zipper will pay off in longer zipper life and smoother zipper action. Dry suit zippers are expensive and it’s worth the effort to take good care of them.

To properly lubricate the zipper, first close the zipper all the way. Most zippers are lubricated with either paraffin wax or bee’s wax. Keep in mind that cold surface temperatures will make it difficult to use paraffin wax.

Do not use silicone spray or silicone grease on your dry suit zipper. If you use either of these lubricants they will work their way into the base material of the zipper tape. They can make it difficult or impossible to replace the zipper if necessary. In an emergency, if no wax is available, you can use a bar of soap.

Lubricate the outside of the zipper with a thin film of wax. Never lubricate the inside of the zipper with wax. If you lubricate the inside of the zipper with wax it will collect dirt and other debris that can cause the zipper to fail.

If you have a shoulder entry dry suit, you will be dependent on your dive partner to close the zipper of your suit. If they are not familiar with how to operate a dry suit zipper, show them how it works before you don the suit, so that you can assure yourself they will do the job properly.

Instruct your dive partner to put their finger inside the loop on the zipper pull before they close the zipper. Some zippers may be equipped with a T-bar on the end to help ensure a positive grip. If the person assisting you just grabs the pull casually they can lose their grip and possibly hurt themselves. Also, if they lose their grip this can cause the zipper to jerk, possibly causing it to accidentally jam underwear in the zipper. Make sure they understand how you want them to do it.

Be sure they tuck all dry suit underwear out of the way before they close the zipper. Have them pull the tab out and forward to close the zipper.

Anything caught in the zipper will cause it to leak. In addition, any fabric caught in the zipper may damage it. If your zipper does jam on your underwear, have them work it very gently but firmly back away from the jam. Be sure they do



Be sure your dive partner understands how to close the zipper on your dry suit.

not force it.

Always ensure that the zipper slider is hard up against the stop. You can see this even if you are wearing a shoulder entry suit. Even the slightest gap between the slider and the docking end of the zipper will cause the zipper to leak. Double check the zipper to make sure it is correctly closed. Your partner's final tug should be firm, but smooth. Make sure they do not jerk the zipper!

Additional Hints for Closing the Zipper On Self-Donning Suits

Pull the torso of the suit down and fasten the crotch strap first, if your suit is equipped with one. This will make it easier to close the self-don zipper. Put your finger in the loop on the zipper pull and close the zipper with a smooth action.

After you have closed the dry suit zipper, close the outer protective zipper, if your suit is equipped with one. This outer zipper will help to prevent sand and other material from getting into the waterproof zipper.



Closing the zipper on a self-don suit.

Additional Hints for Closing Back Mounted Zippers

For dry suits equipped with back mounted zippers, it is wise to have your buddy assist you in closing the zipper. While it's possible to attach a long string to the zipper pull so you can close the zipper yourself, this is not a good idea. There is a strong possibility if you do this that you will catch your dry suit underwear in the zipper.

To close a back mounted zipper, lift your elbows to the height of your shoulders. Bring your arms forward until your elbows are just in front of your chest. This creates a gentle curve in the dry suit zipper that is the perfect angle for closing it.

Adjusting Dry Hoods

Dry hoods must be properly adjusted before you go in the water. Just as it is essential to make sure nothing interferes with a wrist seal or a neck seal, the same considerations hold true for the face seal on a dry hood. Remember, if you have a beard, a dry hood will not seal on it.

Latex dry hoods are designed to be used with a liner to provide insulation and give the hood shape. Never use a latex dry hood without the liner. It will not keep your head warm and the hood could seal over your ear causing a squeeze.

Most of the hood liners are equipped with a chin strap that fastens onto the liner itself with Velcro®. Older liners did not have chin straps, but were equipped with Velcro® tabs in the back of the suit. This arrangement did not work well. If your suit has these tabs you may want to remove them and purchase a liner with a chin strap. It is much more comfortable.

Fasten the chin strap securely under your chin and tuck your hair up inside the liner. Make sure the liner is centered on your head and not crooked. Next, grab the dry hood with both hands and stretch it up and over the liner. If the liner shifts forward or to the side you may need to reposition it. Make sure the liner is not covering your forehead and that there are no stray hairs sticking out from under the dry hood.



Donning the liner for a latex hood.

Latex hoods will keep your head dry only if they are properly adjusted.

Your face mask is meant to seal over the latex hood. The bottom of the latex dry hood should be under your chin, unless you are using a full-face mask. With a full-face mask, the bottom of the dry hood should be covering your chin.

Adjusting Foam Neoprene Hoods

Some dry suits are designed with a special feature known as a “warm neck collar.” This allows you to tuck the bib of a foam neoprene hood underneath a special collar so there is no gap between the bottom of the wetsuit hood and the neck seal on your dry suit. You will probably need some assistance to properly tuck the hood in underneath the warm neck collar in the back. The bib of the hood goes between the collar and the body of the suit.



Squat down to vent the air out of your dry suit prior to donning the rest of your gear.

Venting The Dry Suit

Once you have closed the zipper on your dry suit, you should vent your suit before you don any other equipment. This will make your suit more comfortable to wear on deck and will increase your control when you enter the water. Entering the water from a height when your suit is full of air can cause your neck seal to vent air and leak.

To vent your suit, squat down, fold your arms across your chest, and manually open the exhaust valve. This will force the excess air out of your dry suit. You can also achieve the same effect by opening the neck seal with your fingers, but if you are not careful you can unknowingly get underwear trapped under the neck seal this way.

If the weather is warm, enter the water (or stand under a cold shower) to cool off before donning the rest of your gear. You don't want to overheat!

Have Your Buddy Help You Don Your B.C.

When it is time to don your tank and buoyancy compensator, have your buddy assist you. Donning your B.C. by yourself when you are wearing a dry suit can be difficult, and there is a good chance you may damage your neck or wrist seals. Have your buddy hold your tank up or rest it on a bench as they steady it for you.

To don your B.C., loosen all of the strap adjustments to their widest opening. Insert your left arm first through the left B.C. shoulder strap, taking care that your dry suit exhaust valve clears the strap. Then insert your right arm through the right shoulder strap. If your arm catches on the strap do not force it through.



It's best to have your dive partner assist you in donning your tank.

Instead, allow your buddy to clear it and guide it through the harness. More than one dry suit diver has torn a wrist seal by forcing their arm past a B.C. strap or buckle.

After you have put on your tank and B.C. double check to make sure your weight belt has a clear drop path. Connect your suit inflator hose and secure your submersible pressure gauge to your B.C.



Test Your Dry Suit Inflator & Exhaust Valve Before You Enter the Water

Always take the time to test your dry suit inflator valve before you enter the water. Push the button several times to be sure it is operating freely and does not stick. It is better to discover a problem on the surface than to find out your valve is not working correctly once you have started to descend.

Be sure that all components of your system are working properly before you enter the water.

Pre-Dive Checklist for Dry Suit Diving

(Note: This list will vary depending on the type of suit you own.)

- *Have you completed dry suit training with a qualified dry suit diving instructor?*
- *Is your dive partner familiar with the operation of your dry suit?*
- *Are the seals on your suit trimmed to fit you?*
- *Have you inspected the seals and zipper on your suit to make sure they are in good condition?*
- *Have you conducted a buoyancy check with all of the gear you will use to dive?*
- *Do you have a BC that works properly with your dry suit system?*
- *Are you weighted properly to conduct a hovering safety stop at the end of your dive?*
- *Is your dry suit inflator hose connected to the correct port on your regulator and attached to your inflator valve?*
- *Do you have the correct size fins to use with your dry suit?*
- *Do you have the right amount of insulation for your intended activity during the dive?*
- *Have you donned your neck and wrist seals correctly?*
- *Is your dry suit zipper closed all the way with no underwear or hair trapped in the zipper?*
- *Have you tested both your suit inflator valve and exhaust valve prior to entering the water?*
- *Is your hood properly adjusted?*
- *Have you vented most of the air from your dry suit prior to entering the water?*
- *Have you practiced your dry suit emergency skills recently?*



Always use a lift bag to raise heavy objects underwater. Never use your dry suit for this purpose.