

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHILDREN'S PFDs

To reduce the risk of drowning, read and follow the information

- 1 in this tag,
- 2 in the label on your Personal Flotation Device (PFD),
- 3 in the "Think Safe" pamphlet.



## Select the Right PFD for your child!

When choosing a PFD for your child, understand that different types of PFDs have various strengths and limitations, including:

TYPE	FIT	USE CONDITIONS
<b>Type I PFDs</b>	Unless a hybrid*, more bulky and less comfortable than either Type II or Type III PFDs.	Type I PFDs have the <u>greatest ability</u> to turn a child "face-up."
<b>Type II PFDs</b>	Typically comfortable, but more bulky than Type III PFDs.	Type II PFDs will turn only <u>some</u> children to a "face-up" position.
<b>Type III PFDs</b>	Least bulky and most comfortable for continuous wear	Type III PFD's are NOT designed to turn a child "face-up" in the water. They provide good support to children with some swimming skills.
<b>Type V PFDs</b>	May be a substitute for a Type I, II or III (as marked on PFD label).	Examples are Type V swimwear PFDs with Type III performance that provide enhanced wearability.

*\*Hybrid devices may combine improved comfort with enhanced in-water performance*

A "face-up" position is one where the child is floating calmly on his/her back with arms and legs in the water and head back, with face out of the water (see the other side of this tag for more information about teaching your child to float safely in the water). The ability of a PFD to turn a child "face-up" is affected by:

- your child's height and weight distribution,
- the type of PFD you select,
- the ability of your child to remain calm in the water, and
- the ability of your conscious child to turn himself/herself face up.

## Make sure your child's PFD fits properly!

Select a PFD that fits your child based on her/his weight and any other sizing on the PFD, such as chest size. Make sure your child's weight is within the range marked on the PFD. The PFD should fit snugly, but not too tightly. Do not buy a PFD that your child will "grow into."

Have your child try on the PFD and test its fit by lifting the child up by the shoulders of the PFD — the PFD is too large if it slips up over the child's chin or ears. Always use leg straps, if provided, to keep the PFD securely in place.

PFD SIZE	WEIGHT RANGE	APPROXIMATE CHEST SIZE
Youth	50 to 90 lbs. (23 to 41 kg)	26" – 29" (66 – 74 cm)
Child	30 to 50 lbs. (14 to 23 kg)	20" – 25" (51 – 64 cm)
Infant	Less than 30 lbs. (14 kg)	16" – 20" (41 – 51 cm)