



Injury Prevention Center

archildrens.org

It only takes a moment.

Life Jackets vs. Life Preservers

- Life jackets are also called Personal Flotation Devices (PFD).
- A life preserver is a cushion or ring that is not worn.

Life Jackets - Fast Facts

- Wear your life jacket all the time on or near the water, when fishing, boating, or playing. It's the law for those under 13 years of age.
- Pick one that fits, it should not be able to slip above the chin or ears. Should feel snug and comfortable. You should be able to swim with it on.
- Check the label on the life jacket for the right size for you and your child.
- Children's life jackets should have a loop on the collar and a strap between the legs.
- Use life jackets and life preservers approved by the US Coast Guard.
- Life jackets and life preservers are no substitute for adult supervision.
- Blow up water wings, toys, rafts, and air mattresses are toys and **should not** be used as life jackets or life preservers.
- Teach your child how to put on their life jacket.
- Adults should always wear life jackets to set a good example!**



90% of those who drowned in a boating crash in 2006 were NOT wearing a life jacket.
(www.safeboatingcampaign.com)

Arkansas is ranked fifth in the country for drowning rates of children ages 0 - 18.
(CDC, WISQUARS)

For more information,
please call:

The Injury Prevention Center
(501) 364-3400
(866) 611-3445

[www.archildrens.org/
injury_prevention](http://www.archildrens.org/injury_prevention)

What type of life jacket should you use?

Match the descriptions on the left to the correct Personal Flotation Device on the right. Source: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, for more information on water safety and AR laws please visit, www.agfc.com/boating.

TYPE I: Offshore Life Jackets

Best flotation for open, rough, or remote waters. They will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water.



TYPE II: Near-Shore Vests

These vests are good for calm waters when quick assistance or rescue is likely. These will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water.



TYPE III: Flotation Aids

These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick assistance or rescue is likely. They are not recommended for rough waters since they will not turn most unconscious persons face up. They are often used for water sports such as water-skiing.



TYPE IV: Throwable Devices/Not Wearable

These cushions and ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble. Since a Type IV PFD is not designed to be worn, it is neither for rough waters nor for persons who are unable to hold onto it.



TYPE V: Special-Use Devices

These vests, deck suits, hybrid PFDs, and others are designed for specific activities such as windsurfing, kayaking, or water-skiing.



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Type 1: B, Type 2: A, Type 3: D, Type 4: E, Type 5: C.