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COVID 19 Lifejacket Cleaning Recommendation

Lifejackets are generally made from Nylon & Polyester fabrics and PVC & Polyethylene Foam is used as the filling. These materials do not require any specialist cleaning agents such as methylated spirits or bleach of any kind as they will negatively impact the fabrics and cause the lifejacket to be impaired in both structural integrity and therefore performance.

Thoroughly wash your lifejacket for a minimum of 2 mins by immersing it in a tub of warm soapy water. We recommend to only use detergent (soap) products to clean your lifejacket. You should only wash a lifejacket in warm water (40 degrees) using a neutral detergent with a pH of 6 & 8 (no harsh detergents) Detergent is a surfactant and so breaks down the interface between water and oils (and dirt), allowing for their release and removal. For cleaning in times of COVID-19 this recommendation stands, as surfactants act upon COVID-19 in the same way they work on oils, attacking the fatty shell of the virus. The chemical bonds of the virus are relatively weak, and so it becomes water soluble and disintegrates. The detergent does not simply “wash the virus off the lifejacket, but actively destroys it, as per Australian Government Department of Health guidelines.

After washing your lifejacket, it should then be thoroughly rinsed in clean water to remove all and any residual detergent / soap and then hung up to dry in a cool dry ventilated environment out of direct sunlight.

For commercial operators, schools or adventure camps etc. where lifejackets are worn by multiple people, we recommend cleaning after each use. Do not machine wash, do not tumble dry, do not iron, and do not dry clean.

Please refer to the manufacturers care instructions that come with the lifejacket and printed on the inside of the lifejacket.