



DRYSUIT
RIDER GUIDE

Congratulations on your choice of an Ocean Rodeo Drysuit

Your suit has been designed to provide you with the highest degree of mobility, temperature versatility and ruggedness. Built with the finest quality materials and over 30 years of design and production excellence, we are certain that your suit will be everything you hoped for and more.

Each Ocean Rodeo Drysuit is individually inspected and tank tested before it leaves our factory to ensure the highest quality.

From time to time your suit, including its zipper and seals, may require professional service. If, for any reason, you suspect that service is required, or your suit and/or its components do not perform as they should, then you should immediately discontinue its use and have it evaluated and/or serviced at your authorized Ocean Rodeo dealer.

A little effort goes a long way to keeping your suit in top form. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the care and maintenance and the warranty information. If you have any questions about your suit, please do not hesitate to contact your authorized Ocean Rodeo dealer to assist you.

To help you maintain your suit we have provided information on the following pages.

Important notice

This is not an instruction manual, nor does it eliminate the necessity for obtaining professional instruction in the operation of an Ocean Rodeo Drysuit. The user is therefore advised to obtain such instructions as well as familiarizing him/herself with the information contained in this manual prior to water-borne operation of any drysuit.

Warning

Improper use or misuse of this drysuit could result in exposure to thermal hazards, including rapid body overheating or cooling, resulting in stroke or seizure. Always wear an approved personal flotation device (PFD) when wearing a drysuit.

Latex neck and wrist seals

Your Ocean Rodeo Drysuit is fitted with latex drysuit seals. Latex seals offer a superb seal, however they are fragile. Over time, latex seals can dry out and crack. Avoid contact with petroleum-based products such as lotions and petroleum-based silicone lubricants as they will deteriorate latex rubber.

For lubrication, use seal saver or a food-grade vegetable-based silicone spray in a pump bottle (avoid aerosol). Baby powder, talcum powder or cornstarch are great alternatives. Avoid sharp objects (rings, earrings, and fingernails) as they may tear the latex. Extended exposure to sunlight will damage latex seals. Extreme cold may stiffen latex seals. Make sure your seals are warmed up to room temperature before attempting to stretch into them.

Take care of your drysuit zipper

The zipper on your drysuit is very expensive, so please look after it! Drysuit zippers and fine sand are not a good combination! Wash with fresh water after every use.

Keep your zipper lubricated. Paraffin wax is ideal. Do not use oil-based lubricants or silicone spray as they can damage the zipper material. Failure to wax your dry zipper will result in premature wear.

When storing your suit be sure not to kink the zipper (see Folding a drysuit on page 7).



Donning your drysuit

The first step is to pull the suspenders out to the sides.



Step 1

Now carefully slide your feet through the ankle seals. It is easiest to sit while performing this task. Do not force your foot through the opening as this may tear the seal! Push your foot partially into the seal, and then use your fingers to carefully stretch the latex ankle seals over your foot.*



Step 2

Make sure the seal is sitting flat against your ankle for the best seal and comfort.



Step 3

Adjust suspenders for a comfortable fit. The suspenders should hold the suit up in the crotch (snug but not too tight). If the crotch is too low, leg mobility will be decreased.



Step 4

Important

If at any time you find the latex seals difficult to slide on, talcum powder, baby powder, hair conditioner or a mild soap can reduce the friction against your skin.

Push hands through the latex wrist seals, using your free hand to expand the wrist seal opening.*



Step 5

Have your partner carefully zip you up ensuring a full seal at the end of the zipper. If you have to zip up alone, hook the zipper lanyard onto a stationary hook and carefully pull the zipper closed by moving away from the hook. Be careful not to catch any undergarments in the zipper teeth, as this will cause damage and result in leaks. If the zipper does not slide smoothly, check for obstructions. Do not force the zipper closed.



Step 7

Stretch the neck seal over your head, using both hands to expand the neck opening.*



Step 6



Step 8

After zipping up, remove some of the air in the suit by squatting down and opening the neck seal with your hand.

** If seals are too tight, see Fitting latex seals on page 6 for further instructions.*

Neck dam

Your Ocean Rodeo Drysuit comes fitted with a neck dam. Simply Velcro the rear closure after donning the suit. Make sure to have the neck dam opened before entering or exiting the neck seal.

Removing your drysuit

When removing a shoulder-entry drysuit, follow the same steps as above in reverse.

Helpful hint for removing ankle seals

Find a nice comfy seat, and pull suit down inside out. Slide fingers under inside ankle seal and stretch over foot. Do not stand on the leg of the suit and force your foot through the seal! This will damage the ankle seal.

Fitting latex seals

You may want to fine-tune the fit of your latex seals. If your latex seals seem too tight, they can be trimmed to create a comfortable fit. Using scissors, carefully trim one ring at a time, checking the fit as you go along. You do not have to wear your suit during this process, just slide one foot, wrist or your neck into the seals to test the fit as you go along. The seals should be snug but not tight. You may want your dealer to assist you in fitting your seals.

Warning

Neck seals that are too tight may restrict blood flow to the brain resulting in serious injury.



Step 1



Step 2

Folding a drysuit

With the zipper open, roll the suit starting at the ankles working forward towards the neck seal.

Loosely fold the arms together over the body of the suit. Do not stuff your suit in a bag that is too small, as the zipper may get bent.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

Drysuit zipper care

Keep your zipper clean from sand and debris by spraying with clean fresh water after every use. Store your suit with the zipper in the open position. Stubborn debris lodged in the zipper can be removed with a soft tooth brush and mild hand or dish soap.

When opening or closing a zipper, avoid catching undergarment material in the zipper teeth. If the zipper slider becomes jammed, do not continue pulling. Back zipper up and clear debris or clothing. Do not force your zipper.

Keep your zipper lubricated. Paraffin wax is ideal. Do not use oil-based lubricants or silicone spray as they can damage the zipper material. Be sure not to fold the zipper back on itself when storing your suit (see Folding a drysuit). For prolonged storage, it is best to hang your suit from the legs, with the zipper in the open position. Hang it in a cool dry place, out of direct sunlight.



Zipper care

Frequently asked questions

What do I wear under my drysuit?

Ocean Rodeo Drysuits are incredibly versatile. Many people believe drysuits are for cold conditions only...wrong! You can use your drysuit in tropical waters right through to iceberg jumping.

How much underwear you use depends on the temperature and your activity level. Typically first time drysuit users bulk up with too much fleece inside their suit. For moderate conditions a 10 ounce fleece pant and shirt (Ocean Rodeo Heater undergarment) is perfect. For warmer conditions you can wear shorts and a t-shirt under the suit, for freezing (snow/blizzard) conditions throw on a second layer of fleece.

Will I stay completely dry?

Depending on the conditions, and your level of physical output, it is normal to have some condensation on the inner surface of the suit. After a multi-hour session your undergarments may be damp from sweat. Although the suit has been designed to take extreme impacts, some water may enter up the seals during big wipeouts.



Repairs — finding a leak

We advise taking your suit to your Ocean Rodeo dealer for repairs. However, there are times in the field when some basic repairs can save a day on the water.

What you need: mild soap, pop cans, water container, pump (kite pump or air mattress pump), twine, and chalk.

1. Place pop cans in wrist and ankle seals and tie snug with twine
2. Gather neck seal around hose from hand pump and tie snug with twine
3. Pump up suit until fully inflated
4. With suit inflated, pour soapy water over suspected leak. Mark areas where bubbles appear with chalk

Repairs — fixing a hole in a drysuit

Now that you have marked the leak with chalk you can proceed to repair the hole.

What you need: dry adhesive patch (available from your Ocean Rodeo dealer), Acetone, paper towel, hot air source (a good quality hair dryer is adequate) and a pair of scissors.



Step 1

Cut patch to desired size and shape. Round off any points.



Step 2

Liberaly clean the area around the hole with the Acetone. Do same with patch.



Step 3

Promptly apply patch over hole and press firmly.



Step 4

Using a hot air source, apply heat to patch. **USE EXTREME CARE** to keep moving the heat around and not to focus it for any period of time. Press patch firmly.

Caution
May be extremely hot.



Step 5

Let patch cool for 15 minutes and inspect bond. Adhesive film should be bonded to both surfaces. If bond is not complete, repeat step 4.



Step 6

Allow repair to sit for 24 hours for optimum bond and carefully inspect before using your suit.

Changing latex wrist or ankle seals

Obtain a latex seal kit from your Ocean Rodeo dealer.

What you need:
seal kit, sharp
scissors, Acetone,
clean cloth and a
plastic container.



Step 1

Turn sleeve inside out and carefully cut off damaged seal. To preserve original sleeve length, cut seal away from seam. Most people can cut shorter without any undue effects in function.



Step 2

Insert plastic container into wrist or ankle so half of the container is exposed (must be a snug fit). You want the smooth polyurethane coating facing out.



Step 3

Put seal inside out on jig and fold up 1 inch. Remove paper from one side of adhesive film. Using the Acetone, liberally clean the suit surface and the exposed side of the adhesive film.



Step 4

While removing backing paper, wrap film around end of sleeve. Be careful to overlap ends of adhesive film.



Step 5

Clean exposed portion of adhesive film and the folded section of seal. Carefully roll latex seal down onto adhesive film.



Step 6

Apply heat to seal at adhesive point. USE EXTREME CAUTION to keep moving the heat around and not to focus it at one point for any period of time.

Note
Adhesive film will go clear when sufficiently heated.



Step 7

Allow to cool 15 minutes and inspect bond. Adhesive bond should be holding to both surfaces. If bond is not complete, repeat step 6.



Step 8

Allow to set for 24 hours for optimum bond and carefully inspect before using suit.

Changing latex neck seal

When changing a latex neck seal, follow the same procedures as ankle/wrist, except you must use a large ball or medium sized bowl in the neck opening to support the suit during the bonding process. You must place the neck seal in place without the help of the plastic container as done during a wrist seal repair.

Important safety precautions

1. Always wear a life jacket (PFD)
2. If you are a first time drysuit user, test your drysuit under controlled conditions so you are familiar with its performance
3. Use the correct amount of insulation for the water temperature, air temperature and your exercise rate
4. Check your zipper and seals before each session
5. Perform preventative maintenance and repairs on your suit regularly, or have them serviced by a qualified individual
6. Know your limitations and do not exceed them

All stock Ocean Rodeo Drysuits are covered by a one-year warranty offered to the original purchaser on workmanship, with a one-year warranty on materials. Warranty is limited to the repair or replacement of the Ocean Rodeo product at our option. This warranty does not cover damage caused by normal wear and tear, fading, misuse or negligence. This warranty is invalid if unauthorized repairs have been carried out. Suits used for professional or commercial use (rentals, instruction, etc.) are covered under warranty for 30 days. Repairs or alterations not covered by warranty will be billed to the customer.

Important Notice

Ocean Rodeo does not offer a warranty on latex drysuit seals.

Warranty Registration

Your warranty registration number is found on the back of this manual.

Don't forget to register your suit online at www.oceanrodeo.com or mail in your warranty card.

Warranty Registration No. _____

Name _____

Age _____

Sex Male Female

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Country _____

Postal Code/Zip _____

Email _____

Store Name _____

Date of Purchase _____

What is your product primarily used for? Kiteboarding Snowboarding Landboarding Other

How did you hear about Ocean Rodeo? Dealer Friend Trade Show

Internet Television Magazine Ad/Article

What is your other favorite sport? Skiing Windsurfing Climbing Surfing

Hangliding Snowboarding Mountain Biking

Why did you purchase from Ocean Rodeo? Quality Fit Design/Style

Availability Price Reputation

Please write any other comments or questions you may have



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