

...fear no cold

**OCEAN  
RODEO  
DRYSUITS**

**DRYSUIT MANUAL**

[www.oceanrodeo.com/drysuits](http://www.oceanrodeo.com/drysuits)

## 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 the 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 as well as 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 latest technology in latex dry suit seals. New blends of latex and polyurethane have increased the life span and durability of latex seals compared to those of the past. **The latex/PU blended seals can also be easily repaired if torn! (see repairs section for details).** 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 Ti-Zipper well lubricated with Ti-Zip brand lubrication. (provided with suit or available from Ocean Rodeo directly) Failure to lubricate 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.

*Suspenders are optional.*



Step 1

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



Step 3

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

If you have suspenders, adjust them 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

On back zip suits, 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.*

## Removing your drysuit

When removing a drysuit, follow the same steps as previously described 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

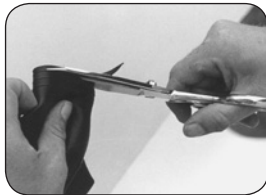
You may want to fine-tune the fit of your latex seals. If your latex seals seem too tight, they can be trimmed to create a comfortable fit. Using scissors, carefully trim one ring at a time, checking the fit as you go along. You do not have to wear your suit during this process, just slide one foot, 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***Step 1*

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 2*

## 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. Use of T-Zip lubricant is ideal. 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, with the zipper in the open position. Hang it in a cool dry place, out of direct sunlight.



*Zipper care*



## Frequently asked questions

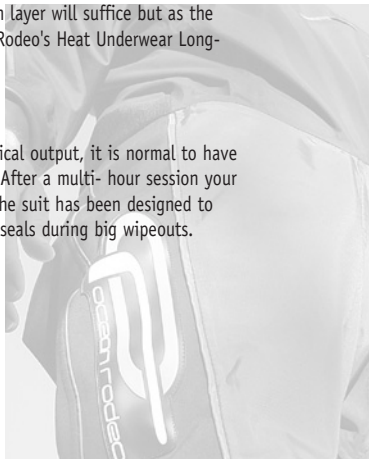
### *What do I wear under my drysuit?*

Ocean Rodeo Drysuits are incredibly versatile. Many people believe drysuits are for cold conditions only...wrong!

Layering under a drysuit should be approached in a similar way to layering for hiking or skiing in cold weather. The key is to layer with fabrics that support maximum flexibility, wick away perspiration and retains superior loft for heat mass retention. The amount of layering required is dependent on the individual riders heat tolerance, the external environment and sport of choice. Ocean Rodeo Drysuits are optimized for use with our Heat Underwear. This ultra-flexible polypropylene fleece is form fitting and warm with design that maximizes movement and allows for layering. In the warmest conditions a single, thin layer will suffice but as the temperature decreases the rider can layer on Ocean Rodeo's Heat Underwear Long-John and Shorty.

### *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 dry suit repair facility. Many scuba shops offer this service 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, water container, pump (kite pump or air mattress pump), twine, and chalk.

1. Wrap the wrist and ankle seals and tie snug with twine or velcro wrap straps
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

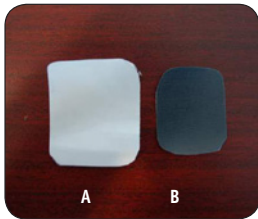
## Repair a hole in water proof/breathable material.



**Step 1:** Turn your garment inside out. Make sure the suit is clean and dry. Place a flat hard object inside the suit directly under the hole. The block helps support the

material during the repair process.

TIP: Stretch an elastic band around the material and block to help hold the material in place.



**Step 2:** Cut heat activated repair patches to size. The Ocean Rodeo repair system requires two separate heat activated patches to be applied in

sequence.

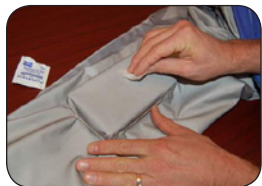
A) Cut the base patch about 1/8" (3mm) larger all the way around than the Top Patch.

Identifying the 2 different patch materials:

The base layer patch (A) has a clear film laminated onto white paper backing.

The top patch (B) has a smooth black finish on one side and a matte grey finish on the other. There is no white paper backing on the top patch.

Cut your patches to extend at about ½" past the edges of the hole on all sides. Rounding the corners of the patch makes a nice finish.



**Step 3:** Now is a good time to plug in the iron and set to medium heat. (no steam please!) Clean the breathable material: Using

the rubbing alcohol swab thoroughly clean/scrub the breathable material area around the hole.

Clean the heat patches: Give the smooth film side of the base patch and the matt grey side of top patch a good wipe with the alcohol swab.

Tip: if the hole is small, circle it with pencil for easy identification while working on the suit.



**Step 4:** Place the base patch over the hole, paper up / smooth film down.

Cover the base patch and your dry-suit fabric

with parchment paper before applying heat.

Take your heated iron and apply pressure. Keep the iron moving in a circular motion. In 10 to 20 seconds the film will liquefy. (You will see evidence of this through the parchment paper).



**Step 5:** Remove the iron and carefully peel away the paper backing. Take care not to burn your fingers. The adhesive must have melted into

the woven fabric "tricot" layer to act as an effective bonding layer for the top patch.



**Step 6:** Take the top patch and lay it over the base layer, matte grey side down. You should have a rim of exposed base layer as your top patch is cut smaller.

Lay the sheet of parchment paper over the top patch and heat for 10 to 20 seconds. Apply pressure and keep the iron moving in a circular motion. Remove heat and parchment paper. Let patch cool. Your suit is now ready for use.

### Repairing a hole in Latex seals.

Some latex seals are blended with polyurethane (as with Ocean Rodeo seals). This PU/latex blend allows the user to repair small tears in the seals by use of heat activated patches.



**Step 1:** Locate hole and place a flat hard object inside the latex seal directly under the hole. The block helps support the latex during the repair process.



**Step 2:** Now is a good time to plug in your iron and set to medium heat. (no steam please!)

The Ocean Rodeo

latex repair system requires two separate heat activated patches to be applied in sequence.

Cut a patch from the heat activated base layer material. (white paper backing with clear film on the other side)

Using an alcohol swap, thoroughly clean / scrub the latex seal in the area around the hole.

Wipe the clear film side of the base patch with the alcohol swap.

Tip: Cleaning these two surfaces is an important step to ensure a secure bond between patch and latex seal.



**Step 3:** Place the base patch over the hole and cover with parchment paper.



backing paper.

With iron set at medium heat, apply pressure for 10 to 20 seconds. Keep iron moving. Peel away white



**Step 4:** Take a self adhesive sticky patch from the small plastic box, peel back the paper, and stick over the hole.



Tip: It's okay if the base patch cools down before applying the sticky patch.



**Step 5:** Cover sticky patch with parchment paper and apply heat and pressure with iron for 10 to 20 seconds.

**Let cool and you're ready to ride.**

## Changing latex wrist or ankle seals

Obtain a latex seal kit from your Ocean Rodeo dealer.

What you need: Ocean Rodeo latex seal kit, sharp scissors, Acetone (or similar product), clean cloth, plastic container (with the same circumference as wrist or ankle opening of suit), hot air source (heat gun or hair dryer), small roller.

Turn sleeve/ankle/neck inside out and carefully cut off damaged seal (cut just below seam created when latex seal was originally sewn to the suit).



*Step 1*

With suit inside out, insert plastic container into wrist or ankle so a portion of the container is exposed past the arm end (must be a snug fit). For necks lay the neck opening over a large ball.



*Step 2*

Take the strip of dry adhesive tape and remove the paper from one side.



*Step 3*

Take your cloth, wet with Acetone, and wipe clean the suit surface around the cuff perimeter. Immediately after this, wipe the exposed adhesive on the tape strip.



*Step 4*

Now wrap tape around edge of cuff. As you make the full wrap, peel off final layer of release paper, and overlap adhesive film so there is no exposed suit material on the cuff edge.



Step 5

Now carefully lift and stretch latex seal over plastic tub and cover /overlap the adhesive film. Have a least 1" (2.5 cm) overlap between seal and suit cuff.



Step 7

Using a small roller, or your thumbs, press the seal around the new connection to ensure a solid bond. **Don't burn your fingers!**



Step 9

Wipe Acetone over the exposed adhesive film.



Step 6

Apply heat to seal at adhesive point. **USE EXTREME CAUTION!** Keep moving the heat around and do not focus it at any one point for an extended period of time. **Don't melt a hole in your suit!**

*TIP: Exposed adhesive film will go clear around top edge of seal when sufficiently heated.*



Step 8

Allow to cool for 15 minutes and inspect your bond with a good "tug". Adhesive bond should be holding to both surfaces. If bond is not secure, repeat heat process, and inspect bond again.



Step 10

## 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. If your suit is torn or damaged during use, discontinue its use immediately. Have it repaired by a qualified individual.
6. Perform preventative maintenance and repairs on your suit regularly, or have them serviced by a qualified individual
7. 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. Ocean Rodeo's warranty does not cover the drysuit's latex seals. 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 only. Discounted products purchases from the Online Clearance Shop carry a 90 warranty. Factory seconds, used or demo gear carry no warranty. 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.



Notes



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