

# KAYAK ACADEMY

## Tips for Drysuit Renters (read before you leave home)

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For your own sake, take care of your rental drysuit. Damaging it along the way could result in a wet, miserable trip. We have logged many kayaking and rafting trips in drysuits just like the ones we rent. So we know how durable they can be, but a careless renter can destroy the same drysuit in one trip. With the tips below, most damage to drysuits can be prevented.

If you've never worn a drysuit before, your first impression will likely be that the neck gasket is too tight. But gaskets need to be snug or the suit will leak. We customize the fit of the gaskets on our rental suits in proportion to the neck and wrist sizes of the average person likely to wear each size. If you have an unusually large neck or wrist and/or a medical sensitivity that makes a tight gasket cause a real health problem (for example, you've had lymph nodes removed or you are truly concerned about your circulation), ask someone with experience wearing a drysuit to check the gasket fit. The only way to loosen a gasket is by trimming it. However, if you trim a gasket, we must replace it so the suit won't leak for the next renter, and you will be billed for the cost of replacement.

**Always wear clean socks inside the suit.** Bare feet or dirty socks will permanently stain the inside of the dry socks, and stains can keep patches from sticking to the fabric, making the dry socks unrepairable. If you go barefoot inside the suit, your toenails will wear holes through the dry socks. **Replacing dry socks costs \$250.** So, bring clean liner socks for each day of your trip or wash your socks often at camp. Thin, wicking (non-cotton) socks will be most comfortable; thick socks will make your booties fit too tight, resulting in cold, cramped feet. Try your suit on at home and check that your footwear is big enough to wear over the dry socks and liner socks (you'll likely need to wear one size larger booties for this than your street shoe size).

**Rocks** and brush will wear holes through the sides of dry socks unless you wear full coverage boots, wet suit booties, or neoprene socks over the dry socks. If you feel you must wear sandals, purchase a neoprene sock.

**Inspect** your raft frame, rocket boxes, or boat seat for bolts and other sharp edges that may rub against you. Protect your drysuit by covering sharp metal objects with duct tape at the start of your trip. Sharp edges could damage a suit while riding or when being pulled back into the raft after a swim. **Wear "surf trunks/board shorts" over the outside of your drysuit to add a protective layer to the seat and thighs.**

Thorns will poke holes in drysuits and rocks can wear holes in the fabric. If you're going for a half hour hike or staying in camp for the evening, take the drysuit off to protect it. Take it off before carrying tables and sharp-edged aluminum kitchens up to camp. When you are done for the day, lay the suit out on a rock or grass to dry. Then gently fold the suit, taking care not to kink the zippers, and store it in your tent at night. If the suit is still damp at night, turn it inside out before putting it in your tent so your sleeping bag won't get wet. **Never leave your drysuit outside at night!** Mice and other animals are attracted to the salt residue from your sweat and will chew lots of holes in it.

**Try before you buy** – We offer up to \$150.00 of rental fees per suit to use as credit toward the purchase of a NEW drysuit before the end of the year (Dec. 31).

*Thanks, stay dry and have a great trip!*

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