

KAYAK ACADEMY

Tips for Drysuit Renters (read before you leave home)

© George Gronseth 2007

For your own sake, take care of our rental dry suit. If you treat it like a rental car you'll have a wet, miserable trip. We have logged many kayaking and rafting trips in dry suits just like the ones we rent. So, we know how durable they can be, but a careless renter can destroy the same dry suit in one trip. With the tips, here and the instructions in our "Rental Dry Suit User's Guide", most damage to dry suits can be prevented.

If you've never worn a dry suit 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. If you had to choose between holding the gasket open with your hands or grabbing a winning million-dollar lottery ticket would you fuss with the gasket? If you'd grab the lotto ticket, the gasket is loose enough that you'll forget all about it once you start having fun on the water. However, if you try on a new dry suit at a store, the gaskets are probably tighter than necessary. 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 dry suit. If you have an unusually large neck or wrist and/or a medical sensitivity that makes a tight gasket cause a real health problem (i.e. you've had lymph nodes removed or you are truly concerned about your circulation), ask someone with experience wearing a dry suit 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 replacing the gasket (\$95 neck and \$55 each wrist).

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 \$200.** So, bring clean socks for each day of your trip or wash your liner socks often at camp. Thin, wicking (non-cotton) "liner" 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).

Never wear sandals or Crocks over the drysocks. Rocks and brush will wear holes through the sides of drysocks unless you wear full coverage boots, wet suit booties or neoprene socks over the drysocks.

Avoid sitting on rocket boxes or any sharp edges that may rub against you. Wear surf trunks/board shorts over the outside of the suit to add a protective layer. **Never toss the suit over a bush to air it out - mesquite and other bushes can poke lots of holes in your suit.**

Avoid walking through thorns - that will poke holes in your drysuit. Rocks are abrasive and can wear holes in the fabric. If going for a half hour hike or staying in camp for the evening, take the drysuit off to protect it. Take suit off before carrying tables and sharp edged aluminum kitchens up to camp. When you are done for the day, lay the suit over your tent or a clothing line to dry then gently fold the suit taking care not to kink the zippers and store it in your tent at night. If 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.

For your convenience, the Kayak Academy sells liner socks and booties

Thanks, stay dry and have a great trip!

Kayak Academy / 11801 188th Ave SE / Issaquah, WA 98027, Phone: (425) 200-0030

KAYAK ACADEMY

RENTAL/DEMO DRY SUIT RETURN FORM

Please complete and put in box when returning suit

Renter's Name/ Suit #: _____

Yes No Was the dry suit big enough? _____

Yes No Were the gaskets tight enough to seal? _____

Yes No Did the dry suit function as expected (i.e. waterproof/breathable)? _____

Yes No Any damage or problems with the suit? Please note them:

Damaged/or lost suits are the customer's responsibility
Please read: "Rental Drysuit Users Guide" & Tips for Boaters/Renters
Charges for damages or replacement of lost drysuits:

- Wash Fee: For suits that are sent back wet/excessively dirty or that must be sent back to the manufacturer for repair \$50.00
- \$5 per pinhole after the 3rd one up to \$50.00 per suit
- Trimming gaskets, torn gaskets: Wrist \$55.00, Neck \$95.00
- Broken zippers: \$242.00
- Torn or contaminated (paint, glue or rubber patches, etc.) fabric: Up to MSRP cost of suit.
- Lost suit: MSRP cost of suit

Refund of damage deposit may take up to one month from the time that the suit is received. Please allow us this time to inspect, test, repair, retest and process your rental credit. Taking good care of your rental will speed up this process. Thank you.

Reminder: Before packaging rental/demo item(s).

After last use, please: Rinse salt, sand, and/or mud off outside of suit. Turn inside-out and wash dry-socks in tub with warm water and mild soap. Hang dry both sides, then close zippers and fold gently.

Return ship via UPS or FedEx ground w/ no signature required

Ship to:

Kayak Academy
11801 188th Ave SE
Issaquah, WA 98027
Tel: 425-200-0030 info@kayakacademy.com