

# DRYSUIT USER'S MANUAL



**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR CHOICE OF AN OCEAN RODEO DRY SUIT**

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.

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## DONNING YOUR DRY SUIT

**Step 1:** Pull suspenders out to sides.



**Step 2:** Carefully slide your feet through the ankle seals or soft sock. It is easiest to sit while performing this task. Do not force your foot through the opening as this may tear the seal! If you suit is fitted with Latex ankle seals, Push your foot partially into the seal, and then use your fingers to carefully stretch the latex ankle seals over your foot.



**Step 3:** Make sure the seal is sitting flat against your ankle for the best seal and comfort.



**Step 4:** Now it's time to adjust your 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.



**Note:** Your suit comes with a three point suspender system. The suspenders can be removed via Velcro tabs located at the waist. Length adjustment buckles are found at each end of the suspender. Adjust the suspenders so the suit is held up in the crotch for maximum mobility.



**Step 5:** Push hands through the wrist seals, using your free hand to expand the seal opening.



**Step 6:** Stretch the neck seal over your head, using both hands to expand the neck opening.



**IMPORTANT:** If seals are too tight, see Fitting latex seals on page 10 for further instructions.

**Neoprene push through wrists:** Some Ocean Rodeo drysuit are fitted with neoprene push through wrist seals.

The neoprene used is soft and supple to deliver excellent sealing and comfort. While donning and doffing, carefully stretch neoprene over you hand. Do not force your hand through the seal or use finger nails to grip the neoprene or you may tear the seal.

**Step 7:** Zip up suit, being careful to not catch any undergarments in the zipper teeth. If the zipper does not slide smoothly, check for obstructions. Do not force zipper closed.



**Wader belt:** Some Ocean Rodeo drysuits incorporate the an elastic belt at the waist. The belt should be snug around your waist while in stand by mode.



**Hoods:** Most of the Ocean Rodeo drysuits come with a hood. Hoods can be removed by unzipping from behind the collar, and detaching the velcro tabs located at the collar sides.

The hood can be adjusted at the back and sides via a bungee cord lock system allowing the user to fine tune the fit to match conditions.



**Jacket hem adjustment:** Some Ocean Rodeo drysuits feature a shock cord adjuster around the bottom edge of the over jacket. Cord lock adjusters can be found inside the side hand pockets.



**Soft socks:** Your suit may come with attached dry soft socks. Care must be taken not to walk on rough surfaces during the donning and doffing procedure. Walking on rough surfaces, rocks etc will damage the socks and create holes. Always wear protective foot wear over you soft socks while using your suit.



## REMOVING YOUR DRYSUIT

When removing a drysuit, follow the same steps as previously described in reverse. A 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 seal.

After each use hang suit to dry in a well ventilated area to minimize fungal breakdown of materials and zips.

## STORING YOUR DRYSUIT

The best way to fold your dry suit for storage or traveling is to first make sure it is completely dry, especially if long term storage is planned.

Your zipper is the most expensive single component on your suit and should never be folded or kinked.

Never store your suit exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods.

**Step 1:** Lay suit face down on a flat surface. With the zipper closed, roll the suit starting at the ankles and working forward towards the neck seal.



**Step 2:** 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 drysuit's zipper may kink.



## STANDBY MODE

The Standby mode feature is unique to Ocean Rodeo. This allows the user to prepare for their session in full comfort. The user has no neck seal restriction and full ventilation with the neck flap open.

**Important:** the suit is not fully dry in standby mode. Standby mode is for use in situations where there is no chance for immersion in water.



## ADJUSTABLE COMFORT NECK SEAL

Some models of Ocean Rodeo drysuit are fitted with an adjustable neoprene neck seal. It is important to familiarize yourself with the operation before use. Practice on land in a safe environment to familiarize yourself with the system before use in the water.

The adjustable seal is extremely comfortable when worn loose, however it is not water tight until the user sinches up the bungee to create a seal around his / her neck. When sinched up, the seal will be water tight.



**WARNING:** Do not tighten the adjustable seal so much that you choke or restrict blood flow! A snug comfortable fit around the circumference of your neck will keep you dry.

## DRYSUIT ZIPPER CARE

Included with your suit is a small packet of zipper lube, this is a simple silicone lube and can be replaced with McNett's Zip Tech if you run out. Use the zipper lube to keep the zipper moving smoothly. If your zipper car gets jammed with an obstruction (fabric, hair, etc) Do not force the zip over an obstruction as it may separate the zipper. Back up, clear obstruction, and zip forward again.

If you feel your zipper is leaking, make sure you have it fully closed by pulling firmly to make sure the zipper car is snug against the docking end. If you are still getting water seepage, apply a bead of Zip Tech lubricant to the docking end.



## FITTING SEALS

Our seals are designed to keep you dry not by being tight but by sitting smooth and flush against your skin. At no time should your seals be cutting off circulation or breathing! If you feel your seals are too tight, you can easily adjust their size. However, 1st be sure that you've got the seal on such that it is smooth and flush against your skin and not folded back on itself as this will cause it to pinch.

If you still need to adjust your seals, we suggest that you 1st consider taking wine or pop bottles and stretching the wrist and ankle seals over these overnight. This will often relax the latex significantly. You can use a medium sized kitchen pot for the neck. As a last resort you can trim your seals to fit. Trimming the seals should be done 1-2mm (1/16th of an inch) at a time.

**FITTING LATEX SEALS:** 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.

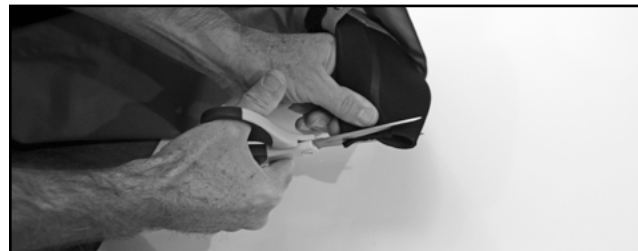
**WARNING:** Neck seals that are too tight may restrict blood flow to the brain resulting in serious injury.



### FITTING NEOPRENE SEALS:

The stitching on the neoprene seal is covered with sealant that allows you trim the seal down if its too tight. Use the same trimming technique as described for latex seals.

**WARNING:** Do not trim bungee adjustable neoprene neck or wrist seals!



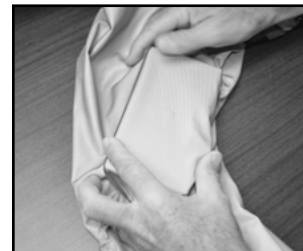
## BREATHABLE FABRIC CARE & REPAIR

Over time your suit's waterproofing will begin to lose its water repellency... this is normal. You may notice a feeling that the suit is 'damp' inside or that it is less breathable than previous. When you begin to notice these traits, it's time to refresh your suit's waterproof barrier! NikWax T.X Direct spray on waterproofing is easy to apply and will dramatically improve your suit's breathability and waterproofness, breathing new life into your suit!

**Repairing a hole in breathable fabric:** Most Ocean Rodeo drysuits come with a heat activated repair patch. Other items required to patch a small hole that are not included with the suit are: a clothes iron, scissors, a block of wood (or other flat hard surfaced object), rubbing alcohol swabs, and parchment paper.



**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 3:** Cut heat activated repair patch to size, about 0.5" past the edges of the hole on all sides. Rounding the corners of the patch makes a nice finish.

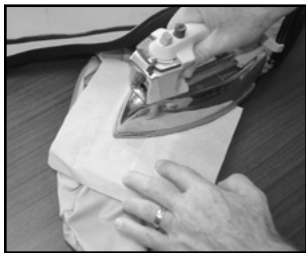


**Step 2:** Now is a good time to plug in the iron and set to medium heat. (No steam please!) Clean the breathable material: Using a rubbing alcohol swab thoroughly clean/scrub the breathable material area around the hole. Clean the heat patch: Give the smooth film side of the patch a good wipe with 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 patch over the hole, fabric up / smooth film down. Cover the 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 inspect the patch. 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. You should see the adhesive oozing out past the edge of the patch. Allow the patch to cool and your suit will be ready for use.



**IMPORTANT:** For major repairs: seal changes, major tears etc, we recommend taking your suit to professional repair center. Go to [support.oceanrodeo.com](http://support.oceanrodeo.com) for recent list of authorized repair centers.

## 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. Check with your dealer or [oceanrodeo.com](http://oceanrodeo.com) for the latest in Ocean Rodeo dry-suit liners.

### 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 wipe-outs.

### What is the best way to maintain my seals?

Your seals require very little maintenance. However, there are some good tips to be aware of. Never don or doff your suit while wearing jewelry, especially on the hands or ears. If you see a nick in your seal, be sure to repair it before it grows! Don't "pull" your seals on over your wrists or ankles. Use your hands to help the seals over your head, hands or feet to prevent undue stress on the seal. At the end of each season, be sure to clean your seals with McNett's Seal Saver or similar product to absorb excess oils left on the seal. These oils can eat away at your seal when in storage.

### Can I wash my drysuit?

If your suit gets stained with something like mud or dirt you can lightly scrub the area with a mild cleaner such as hand soap. Never put your suit in the washing machine or dryer!!

Longer term, you might find that your suit needs a refreshing and is starting to smell a bit 'funky'. McNett's MiraZyme is an excellent option to clean and deodorize your suit.

**Pockets are they dry?**

NO. The only storage pocket on the suit that we consider dry is the located inside the suit on the front chest panel. This pocket is only dry if the main suit dry zipper is closed, and all seals are water tight.

All other pockets are wet, with quick drainage holes.

**Should I rinse my suit after each use?**

Short answer? Yes. Longer answer? You don't need to be super diligent. Obviously, a rinsed off and hung to drysuit will be much more comfortable to don before your next session though!

**Should I hang my suit to dry?**

Absolutely. Only when hung and in a well ventilated area will your suit be able to fully dry. Suits left wet overnight or in the trunk of your car will start to smell and may well also get stained with mildew or mold. Fungus can break down components on your suit.

**Water is getting into my suit, now what?**

If your suit is brand new and you're experiencing water ingress, it is almost certainly due to one of two possible mistakes.

If you're getting wet close to the zipper (chest or groin) you've likely not fully closed your zipper. The zipper must be pulled fully closed such that the car is snug against the docking end of the zipper, there is a noticeable feeling when the zipper locks into place, fully closed.

If you're getting wet around the seals, check to make sure your seals are smooth against your skin. Folds, creases or tucks will allow water to slip into the suit. Be sure as well that no thermal under-layers are trapped between your skin and the seal as this will wick water into the suit.

If your suit is not brand new, it might be time to refresh the waterproof barrier of your VentOR materials. NikWax T.X Direct spray on waterproofing will dramatically improve your suit's breath-ability and waterproofness.

**What if I rip or puncture my suit?**

Your suit is made from durable materials and will not succumb to rips or tears easily. However, if you do puncture or tear your suit, we offer easily applied patch kits that require little more than an iron and 5 minutes of your time. Your suit must be dry and clean prior to applying the patch. Turn the suit inside out and follow the iron on instructions to apply the patch and get back on the water quickly!

**IMPORTANT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

- Always wear a life jacket (PFD)
- If you are a first time drysuit user, test your drysuit under controlled conditions so you are familiar with its performance
- Use the correct amount of insulation for the water temperature, air temperature and your exercise rate
- Check your zipper and seals before each session
- If your suit is torn or damaged during use, discontinue it's use immediately. Have it repaired by a qualified individual.
- Perform preventative maintenance and repairs on your suit regularly, or have them serviced by a qualified individual
- Know your limitations and do not exceed them

**WARRANTY INFORMATION**

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.

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



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