

Downeast Diving



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Care for Your Buoyancy Control Device

Internal Care

In a salt water environment, it is extremely important to flush all the salt out of the vest before it dries and forms rock salt. The rock salt will cut the bladder to shreds in a very short period of time. The vest should be rinsed internally with warm water after each day of diving. Depress the oral inflator button and allow warm water to flow into the vest until it is about 1/3 full. Grip the vest by the top with one hand and the bottom with the other allowing water to accumulate on one side of the vest only. Gather all the straps and the oral inflator hose in one hand and move the vest from side to side allowing the water to travel rapidly from one end of the vest to the other. Then transfer the water to the other side and repeat procedure. Next, gather all the water to the oral inflator side of the drain valve. Open the valve and allow the water to flow out. Before all the water is drained, taste it. If salt is present or the water is not clear, drain and repeat the rinsing procedure.

External Care

Rinse the exterior thoroughly in warm water, paying particular attention to push button valves and the oral inflator, and make certain they are operating freely. With the bladder bag vest, rinse the zipper while moving the slide back and forth about 2" otherwise it may freeze shut with salt corrosion. Spray it with silicone after it dries. Spray the outside of the power inflator hose with silicone. This will help prevent the hose from deteriorating. (Be careful to avoid spraying silicone on plastic parts).

How to thread a BC's tank strap into the buckle?

There are four ways you can do this.

- Once threaded, do not unthread all the way.
- Consult your BC's instruction manual.
- On the inside of your BC's straps there might be a threading guide.
- On the buckle there may be numbers or arrows, just follow them

Servicing Your BC

Remember there are O-rings in the power inflator and rubber gaskets in the BC. These items are best inspected and replaced by a qualified equipment repair specialist.