

 CHARLES RIVER
CANOE & KAYAK

Kokatat

Drysuit Care & Use



Kokatat Gore-Tex Drysuits are an exceptional product that, with proper care and use, will keep you dry and comfortable throughout your trip. These guidelines will help!

The Gore-Tex fabric itself is quite rugged and durable; punctures and cuts from sharp objects are the biggest concern for the fabric itself. The parts of the suit that require the most care are the Gaskets and Zippers.

Gasket Care

Prior to putting on a dry suit or dry top, **remove any rings, watches, glasses, and jewelry**. When putting the garment on, **carefully stretch gasket openings** before slowly easing over head and wrists. Use the same care when removing the garment. Latex gaskets are intended to fit snugly — that's how they keep out water.

Treating the gaskets with 303 Protectant can make it easier for the gaskets to slide over your head and wrists. Never put a garment with latex gaskets in a dryer!

Zipper Care

The zipper is one of the most sensitive dry suit components — treat it carefully! The most common causes of zipper leakage are failure to close the zipper firmly, and/or dirt in the zipper teeth or closing end.

The zipper is most vulnerable to damage when **getting into and out of a dry suit**. Be sure the zipper is open completely and try not to put force on the ends that could tear the zipper apart. Pull zipper in-line using a smooth, even motion — avoid yanking or pulling to the side. If experiencing difficulty closing a zipper completely, have another person help. **Never force a jammed zipper**. Unzip, examine the jammed point for obstruction or damage, then carefully try it again. Zipping over dirt or clothes can derail the teeth and ruin the zipper.

Keep sand and dirt out of the teeth and the closing end of the zipper. If the zipper is clean but is difficult to move, apply zipper wax.

Dressing & Layering

With a drysuit your insulation comes not from the suit itself but from the **layers you wear underneath**. Think of the drysuit as a jacket — you always wear something under your jacket. Wear layers underneath that move moisture away from your skin and provide sufficient insulation. Adjust based on the air and water temperature and your activity level. **Don't overdress** — it's actually easy to overheat in a drysuit.