



DRY SUIT AND DRY TOP STORAGE/CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Dry suits and dry tops have components that age prematurely if not stored properly and regularly treated.

Following these care and use instructions will extend the life of your garment.

WASHING

Today's technical fabrics use the best dyes available, yet with some colors the dye cannot be completely absorbed by fabric fibers leaving a dye residue. Before use, wash garment alone or with like colors to avoid color bleeding. When washing, always follow sewn-in care instructions. With dry suits and dry tops Kokatat recommends using warm water, delicate cycle, gentle powdered soap (or Nikwax® Tech Wash™), with no bleach or harsh chemicals, and high water volume, in a front loading machine. Rinse well (which may mean running it through a second time, inside out with no soap OR use a warm shower). Line dry.

DWR

To restore DWR (Durable Water Repellent) or water beading to the outside of a garment, Kokatat recommends Granger's XT Proofer Spray or Nikwax® TX-Direct Spray-On™. When using the Spray-On product apply when garment is damp. Line dry. Heat is necessary to set the DWR into the fabric (the bottle tells you to use a dryer). Kokatat recommends using an iron, on medium to low heat. Keep the iron moving. DO NOT iron gaskets or zippers. Kokatat suggests using a thin section of cotton between the iron and the GORE-TEX® for two reasons – (1) to prevent TX-Direct from collecting on the iron and transferred to the next garment you iron and (2) to minimize the potential of applying too much heat to the GORE-TEX®. Some people have also had success using a hair dryer.

ZIPPERS

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. Be especially gentle in colder temperatures when the zipper stiffens and becomes less pliable. 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. Clean the zipper occasionally with mild soap and water and a toothbrush. With a clean zipper, lubricate occasionally with a light coat of paraffin, beeswax, or any zip lube product. A dab of Vaseline in the closing end improves sealing. When using Vaseline, make sure it does not get on gaskets or other parts of the garment.

STORAGE

Keep the garment clean, rinsed as needed, and hang dry. If the suit will be stored in a clean environment, the zipper should be left open. This will help alleviate pressure on the sealing elements. In dusty or dirty environments, store with the zipper closed. Store either hanging or loosely rolled. Do not store dry suits or tops in the same room with gas appliances or other combustion exhaust. Do not store dry suits or tops in excessively hot and/or humid locations or where latex gaskets are in direct sunlight. High heat and humidity, extreme dryness, exhaust fumes from cars or gas appliances and exposure to UV and ozone can destroy or shorten the life of gaskets.

LATEX GASKETS

Prior to storage wash gaskets with a gentle soap to remove contaminants (sunscreen, insect repellents, lotions). Treat latex gaskets every 4-6 weeks, inside and out, with 303 Protectant™. Rub it in and let sit for a few minutes before wiping clean with an absorbent cloth until gasket is dry. When using 303 Protectant™ avoid getting it on other parts of the garment.

Prior to putting on a dry suit or dry top, remove sharp rings, watches or jewelry. When putting the garment on, carefully stretch gasket openings before slowly easing over head, feet, and wrists. Use the same care when removing the garment. Latex gaskets are intended to fit snug – they will stretch a little with use. If they are too tight, stretch them overnight (or longer if necessary) onto some kind of form a couple inches larger than neck or wrists.

Small tears or holes in the gasket may be repaired with AquaSeal®. Replacement Gasket Kits, Tool Kits, and Fabric Patch Kits are available from any Kokatat dealer. Even with the best of care, latex gaskets do break down over time and one can expect to replace them during the life of the garment. Gasket replacement is not covered by warranty. Kokatat will replace gaskets for a reasonable fee.

Rev.: February 9, 2009