



WETSUITS Manual

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SCUBAPRO WETSUITS USER MANUAL

Congratulations on purchasing your new SCUBAPRO wetsuit. As you no doubt already know, SCUBAPRO wetsuits set the standard for comfort, style and thermal protection. And as you'll soon find when you take your new wetsuit into the water for the first time, every feature on your SCUBAPRO suit has been expertly engineered to keep you protected throughout your entire dive.


This manual is designed to help you get the most out of your new SCUBAPRO wetsuit. On the following pages you'll find information on the materials and construction methods used to build your new suit. You'll also find tips on the best way to use, care for and repair your new suit.

If, after reviewing this manual, you have questions or feel you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact your Authorized SCUBAPRO Dealer, or SCUBAPRO directly.

LET'S GET STARTED

This manual is published in accordance with the requirements of EN 14225-1:2005. The products described in this manual are manufactured according to specifications set forth by SCUBAPRO.

SAFETY FIRST

 **NOTE:** SCUBAPRO RECOMMENDS THAT ALL DIVERS OBTAIN THE REQUIRED TRAINING AND LEARN HOW TO USE THIS PRODUCT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A CERTIFIED DIVING INSTRUCTOR BEFORE USE UNDERWATER.

- **ALWAYS** check to make sure the zipper is functioning properly before using your wetsuit.
- **ALWAYS** remember that the amount of ballast weight you use when wearing your wetsuit should be just enough to achieve neutral buoyancy with an empty tank – and no more.

Ballast Weight Tip: With the correct amount of weight, you should be able to remain neutrally buoyant at a depth of 3 meters (10 feet) in order to make a 5- minute safety stop with 30 bar (500 psi) or less of tank pressure.

- **NEVER** exceed the maximum depth you are qualified for by your certification level.
- **NEVER** use your wetsuit in contaminated or heavily polluted environments, or in toxic or hydrocarbon-rich waters.
- **NEVER** use your wetsuit as a safety/buoyancy device.

- **NEVER** use your wetsuit with a weight harness or other weight system not equipped with a quick-release system.

ANATOMY OF A SCUBAPRO WETSUIT

SCUBAPRO offers wetsuits of various designs and thicknesses (0.5mm to 7mm) to meet divers' thermal protection needs in a wide variety of water temperatures and conditions.

MATERIAL

Your new wetsuit, and, in fact, all SCUBAPRO wetsuits, are manufactured from 100 percent pure neoprene made from an exclusive formula called X-Foam which is made from limestone neoprene. Due to its high micro-cell structure, limestone neoprene tends to be lighter in weight – always a good thing; it offers greater elasticity – to increase your comfort and range of motion; and it is very durable – to ensure years of good-time diving. But most importantly, its increased cell structure makes limestone neoprene a highly efficient insulator for better heat retention, which means you can stay warmer for longer during your dives.

An added bonus to limestone neoprene is that, being petroleum-free, it is the only neoprene formula that complies with the very strict P.A.H. (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) test requirements. P.A.H.s occur in oil, coal and tar deposits, and are also produced as byproducts of fuel-burning (both fossil fuel and biomass). As a pollutant, P.A.H.s are of concern because some compounds have been identified as carcinogenic, mutagenic, and teratogenic. Included since 1976 on the EPA's pollutants priority list, we also see P.A.H.s today on OMS and UE lists.

The SCUBAPRO team is proud to be the first to offer this special neoprene blend as part of the company's ongoing efforts to better protect divers.

SEAMS

The seams that join the panels of all SCUBAPRO wetsuits 3mm and thicker are glued and blind-stitched. This is generally considered to be the best stitching available. In this process, first seams are glued and treated with a waterproofing substance. This is followed by the "blind-stitch" where the needle penetrates only the top layer of the material. Because the needle never passes all the way through the neoprene, the result is a durable seam that blocks water intrusion, maximizing the suit's overall thermal properties.

ZIPPERS

Zippers on SCUBAPRO wetsuits vary depending on model and style. Zippers can be diagonal, vertical or horizontal, and they can be found on either the back or the front of the suit.

Vertical/Diagonal Zippers:

These zippers are designed to be closed from the bottom up. Always close – and open – vertical or diagonal zippers while standing. This prevents the formation of folds along the length of the zipper that can get jammed in the zipper teeth.

Before closing the zipper make sure the inner gusset or under-flap beneath the zipper is properly smoothed out. (All SCUBAPRO zippers feature gussets or under-flaps to reduce water seepage through the zipper teeth.) Some zippers have external over-flaps that also help reduce water intrusion; these are held in place by Velcro tabs.

Horizontal Zippers:

These zippers run across the shoulders, either on the front or the back of the suit. Across-the-shoulder zippers are closed left-to-right. This is because the majority of people are right-handed so find it easier to close the zipper in this direction.

To minimize the chance of damage, a rear across-the-shoulder zipper should be closed by a dive buddy standing behind you while you keep your arms extended out in front of you (this arm positioning flattens the zipper track for easier zipping). After the dive, also have your buddy open the zipper as you employ the same arm positioning.

Zipper Tip: *If your suit has an across-the-shoulders rear zipper, ask your dive buddy to keep a finger of one hand in front of the zipper slider while he or she closes the zipper with the other hand; this will flatten out any neoprene that might interfere with the zipper. It also keeps any undersuit or under-flap material out of the way so it won't get trapped in the zipper teeth.*

Self-closing an across-the-shoulder front zipper requires a different technique. To make zipping easier, your left arm should be held out and to your left side (45° to 90° from front-center) to help keep the zipper track as straight as possible. Meanwhile, your right hand grabs hold of the slider and pulls the zipper toward its closed position.

Once the zipper is pulled almost all the way over, let go of the slider with your right hand, hold your right arm out and off to the right side (45° to 90° from front-center), and take hold of the slider with your left hand and pull it firmly to the end of the stopper. (Note: double-check that the zipper is

fully closed. If it is not tight against the stopper, water will be able to enter the suit and cause the zipper to open.)

WETSUIT FIT

Your new wetsuit is designed to fit your body like a “second skin.” However, it must not be overly snug. A too-tight wetsuit is uncomfortable, limits range of motion and can restrict breathing, and that can cause panic.

At the same time, your wetsuit can't be too loose. A too-loose wetsuit allows water to shift and pool inside, flushing away your body heat. Typical areas where you might find these pooling “pockets” are the crotch, under the arms and behind the knees.

Like the suit itself, neck, ankle and wrist seals must be able to reduce the flow of water into the suit, but not be so tight as to restrict circulation to the hands, feet and head. A restriction of blood flow to the extremities can result in a loss of feeling, nitrogen build-up and a lack of oxygen to the brain, which can cause you to lose consciousness while under water. On the other hand, seals that are too loose allow water to flow in and out of the suit. This accelerates your thermal loss.

Wetsuit Fit Tip: *To make sure your wetsuit fits correctly, with it fully zipped up inhale deeply to make sure the neoprene does not impair the expansion of your rib cage. Also, reach up and make sure you can clasp your hands over your head. Then bend over, touch your toes, squat, and make sure you can get down on your knees without restriction. If you can make all these moves without discomfort, you're good to go.*

TIME TO GO DIVING!

DONNING YOUR WETSUIT

It's not unusual to struggle a bit when climbing into a brand new wetsuit. Don't worry, this is normal. After just a couple of go-rounds you'll be donning and doffing your wetsuit as easily as pulling on your favorite tee-shirt.

Here are a few tips to make the familiarization process move a little quicker:

- Lay your wetsuit out flat and do a quick overall inspection to ensure it is in good condition.
- Remember to remove jewelry – sharp edges can damage the seals at the neck, ankles and wrists.
- Sit down, if possible, and insert a foot into a leg section.
- Fold the neoprene of the ankle gusset (if present) away from the inner seal.
- Grasp the suit material at calf level and gently ease the foot through the lower opening.

- Pull the suit up over the leg to about lower-thigh.
- Repeat with the other leg.
- Stand up, grasp the gathered suit and ease it up over your torso – before you go too high, make sure that the crotch of the suit is in the correct position.
- With the suit gathered at your torso, fold the neoprene of a wrist gusset (if present) away from the inner seal.
- Insert an arm all the way into the arm section, taking care not to damage the seal when pushing your hand through the opening. (Note: sharp fingernails are the leading culprits when it comes to seal damage – so be careful!)
- Repeat the process with your second arm. During this time make sure that the inner zipper flap is not folded inside the suit. Then pull the suit up and over your shoulders.



WARNING

Avoid the temptation to grab hold of your suit's I-Safe straps and use them as pull handles when putting on or taking off your suit. I-Safe straps are designed to secure your wrist instruments. While very effective at keeping your dive computer or wrist compass from sliding up and down your arm when diving, an I-Safe strap won't survive being tugged on.

- If your suit has a vertical or diagonal zipper, at this point simply zip up and make sure that the neck seal is smoothed out and the collar is secured.
- If your suit has an across-shoulder zipper, grasp the upper part of the neck hole with both hands, with fingers on the inside and thumbs on the outside. Carefully stretch open the neck area to help in passing your head through, then adjust the neck seal in the most comfortable position and close the zipper.

USING YOUR WETSUIT

Your SCUBAPRO wetsuit is built with top quality materials that meet the highest manufacturing standards. Treated properly, it will provide comfort and thermal protection for years of diving. However, care must always be taken to ensure your suit is being used within reasonable limits, always maintained, and never abused or neglected. In other words, take care of your wetsuit and it will take care of you.

Pre-Dive Check:

Before EVERY dive make sure your wetsuit is in good condition. Check seams, inspect for damage to materials or components, and that the suit is free of tears and holes.

Also, check the zipper to make sure it is not damaged or prone to blocking.

Post-Dive Check:

After EVERY dive, repeat the pre-dive check while watching for any new damage that might have occurred during the dive. If any damage is detected, make immediate repairs, if possible, or take your suit to an Authorized SCUBAPRO Dealer for repair. That way you can be sure your suit will be ready to go for your next dive outing.

BE AWARE OF THE RISKS

Diving is great fun, but we all know it brings with it a level of inherent risk. Wearing a quality wetsuit while diving is even more fun, but that, too, carries a bit of inherent risk. Being aware of the potential effect of water temperature and workload on your body will make the time you spend under water safer and a lot more enjoyable.

Hypothermia/Hyperthermia:

Wetsuits are commonly used in conditions where the water is cold both at the surface and at depth, as well as where the water is warm at the surface but cold water deeper down. Whatever the conditions you're diving in, you need to be aware of your own thermal comfort range so you can prevent getting chilled or overheated.

If your body loses too much heat and its temperature dips to unsafe levels, you are experiencing hypothermia. If your body temperature rises above its normal range, that's hyperthermia. While hypothermia is what normally comes to mind when dealing with diving, hyperthermia is not uncommon, and it can sneak up on you during surface intervals in warm climates, while diving in warm, shallow waters, or when engaged in activities that require a higher-than-normal workload.

Because of this, during any warm-water diving activity you need to constantly monitor your workload to prevent excessive gas consumption, fatigue, stress or overheating. On the other hand, when diving in cold water, always wear gloves, boots and a hood to minimize the risk of hypothermia.

By properly protecting your body and its extremities, and by being aware of your own limitations and comfort range, you will be able to recognize a potentially dangerous situation before it's too late. Hypothermia and hyperthermia can be harmful and possibly fatal conditions.

Buoyancy Changes at Depth:

All neoprene products used in SCUBA diving use closed-cell foam to provide thermal protection. As you descend, the increase in pressure causes these cells to compress,

resulting in a reduction of buoyancy. Being aware of this loss of buoyancy, and being prepared to compensate for it, is vital in maximizing the comfort and efficiency of your new wetsuit.

Thermal Protection Loss at Depth:

When neoprene compresses under pressure (see above) the thermal performance of the material is also reduced. If you plan to extend your bottom time at deeper depths you must be prepared for this loss of thermal protection by either wearing a thicker wetsuit or adding thermal under-layers.

Allergies:

A small percentage of the population experiences allergic reactions to neoprene, polyester and nylon. Be aware of any possible reactions you might be experiencing when wearing your new wetsuit and take appropriate action.

CE CERTIFICATIONS PROVIDE VALUABLE INFORMATION

All wetsuits, including SCUBAPRO wetsuits 3mm and thicker, must pass rigid PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) tests in order to qualify for a CE (Conformité Européenne or European Conformity) certification. Having a CE certification enables a wetsuit to be sold in Europe, but it also provides valuable information about the suit that can be used by divers the world over.

In particular, as part of these stringent CE test standards wetsuits are evaluated for their ability to provide thermal protection in a range of water temperatures. This is the only quantifiable data available that allows divers to compare how different wetsuits of different brands perform in different water temperatures.

For example, these tests show that SCUBAPRO's 7/5 Nova Scotia and Everflex steamers are rated Class A in thermal protection, while competitive 7mm suits might be rated Class B. These are huge differences in thermal protection, and are due primarily to the quality of materials used in the construction of the wetsuits and how well they are designed. It's often difficult to fully appreciate these differences in a dive store; that's why these tests are so important.

SCUBAPRO suits go above and beyond when it comes to thermal protection. These CE thermal protection ratings offer scientifically-founded, test-data-backed proof attesting to that fact. In most cases, you'll find SCUBAPRO suits offer the highest rating in their particular category. This is a testament to the superior materials, construction and design that make SCUBAPRO wetsuits the thermal protection of choice among so many divers.

Please refer to the following table. It lists the CE thermal classifications for wetsuits for a variety of water temperatures. You can find your new wetsuit's thermal performance class printed on the suit.

Thermal Performance Class of Wetsuit Material	Water Temperature Ranges
A	7°C/45°F to 12°C/54°F
B	10°C/50°F to 18°C/64.5°F
C	16°C/60.8°F to 24°C/75.2°F
D	>22°C/72°F

MAINTAINING YOUR WETSUIT

Cleaning and Disinfection:

After EVERY dive trip:

- Thoroughly rinse the inside and outside of your wetsuit with clean, fresh water.
- After a thorough rinse, hang your wetsuit so that it can drip-dry in a place with good air circulation but not directly exposed to sunlight. Note: Don't hang your wetsuit by its I-Safe straps – they're not designed for that.
- Allow plenty of time for your wetsuit to dry, both internally and externally, before putting it into storage.
- Always air dry out of direct sunlight.

Zipper Maintenance:

- After each dive rinse the zippers with clean, fresh water to prevent salt deposits that can cause the zippers to jam. This is especially important for zippers with metal sliders.
- After rinsing, polymer zippers must be lubricated using the specific lubricant (paraffin or wax) available at your Authorized SCUBAPRO Dealer.

Storage and Transport:

- Before storing, inspect your wetsuit to make sure all components – zippers, seals and stitching – are sound and in working order, and that there's no damage on the suit itself. If any damage is detected, have your wetsuit serviced only by trained personnel and/or a SCUBAPRO authorized dealer.
- Once inspected, the best way to store your wetsuit is on a SCUBAPRO Multi- Hanger designed to hold all wetsuit components. Store your wetsuit in a dry, cool place, away from direct sunlight.
- Transport your wetsuit in a bag designed for SCUBA gear to avoid creating creases and excessive neoprene

compression. Always clean excess dirt and sand from your wetsuit before putting it into any bag.

Disposal:

When that day finally arrives and you need to replace your current SCUBAPRO wetsuit with a brand new SCUBAPRO wetsuit, be sure to dispose of your old wetsuit according to local regulations and prescriptions.

WARRANTY & REPAIR

SCUBAPRO wetsuits are built with the best materials and meet the highest manufacturing standards. However, over time even a SCUBAPRO wetsuit, when subjected to extended normal use, will start showing signs of wear and tear. This is to be expected.

The key to extending the life of your wetsuit is to take care of it by performing regular pre-dive and post-dive maintenance and dealing with minor repairs before they become major problems. SCUBAPRO stands behind its wetsuits and will always be there with product support but is not responsible for wetsuits that have been abused, neglected, or show signs of normal wear.

WARRANTY

SCUBAPRO warrants to the original consumer purchaser that, for the period of two years from date of purchase, each SCUBAPRO product component not otherwise warranted, and each SCUBAPRO replacement part purchased from an authorized SCUBAPRO dealer, will be free from defects in materials and workmanship under normal use and with reasonable maintenance. This warranty does not apply to any product or part used commercially. A list of Authorized SCUBAPRO Dealers can be obtained online at scubapro.com. SCUBAPRO will, at its option, repair or replace without charge any warranted component or replacement part that is defective in materials or workmanship. Repair or replacement is SCUBAPRO's only responsibility and your only remedy under this warranty.

To obtain warranty services, you must deliver the affected component or part, together with your Original Owner Identification Card (for a component) or other proof of purchase to any Authorized SCUBAPRO Dealer, or directly to SCUBAPRO at 1166-A Fesler Street, El Cajon, CA 92020, or to any other SCUBAPRO factory in the United States, Europe, or Asia. If you send the component or part to a SCUBAPRO factory, you must pay the shipping charges to the factory.

This warranty does not cover damage resulting from improper usage, improper maintenance, neglect of care or

maintenance or repair service performed by someone other than an Authorized SCUBAPRO Dealer.

ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARE LIMITED TO THE DURATION OF THIS WRITTEN WARRANTY.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

SCUBAPRO SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR LOSS OF USE OR ANY OTHER INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR INDIRECT COSTS, EXPENSES OR DAMAGES.

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above exclusions may not apply to you.

If additional details are required regarding your warranty, please contact your nearest Authorized SCUBAPRO Dealer or SCUBAPRO direct.

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