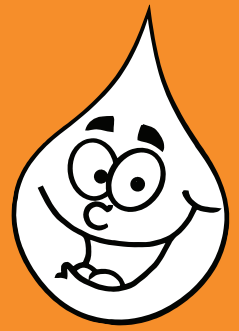


Safety & the Law



Virginia Kayak Life Jacket Laws

Do you need a life jacket to kayak in Virginia?

Yes. All canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards must have on board one USCG approved wearable PFD for each person on board, and all persons 13 years of age and under must wear a properly sized coast guard approved life jacket whenever the boat is in operation unless below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

Virginia PFD Details:

All PFDs should be readily accessible, in serviceable condition, and of the appropriate size for the intended user.

All wearable PFDs in Virginia are required to be by a USCG-approved Type I, II, III, or V. Type V PFDs must be worn according to their instructions.

PFD Age Laws

What age do you have to wear a life jacket in Virginia?

All persons 13 years of age and under must wear a properly sized coast guard approved life jacket

Virginia Kayaking Sounding Devices Laws

Do I need a whistle on a kayak in Virginia? Yes.

Paddlecraft must have some way of making an efficient sound signal that lasts between 4-6 seconds in duration, such as a whistle or air horn.



The best “sounding” device for kayakers and canoeists is a whistle attached to your PFD in a place that’s quick and easy to deploy.